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Daily Report

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Japan

Sato Sees No Bilateral Rice Talks With U.S.

*OW1012191588 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT
10 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato said Saturday he is confident that Japan and the United States will never discuss Japan's rice import ban on a bilateral basis.

Sato, meeting reporters at his office on arrival from Montreal, said the United States appreciates Japan for its calm response to take up the rice issue in multilateral trade talks.

Sato and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno attended cabinet-level trade talks in Montreal between Monday and Thursday.

Uno is scheduled to return to Tokyo Sunday evening.

Uno Briefs Takeshita on U.S., Canada Trip

*OW1212062988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT
12 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno Met Monday with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and briefed him on his recent visit to the United States and Canada.

Uno, who met U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President-Elect George Bush last Thursday, told Takeshita Bush expressed his desire to meet with the Japanese prime minister at an early date, officials said.

Government sources have said Takeshita plans to visit Washington immediately after Bush is sworn in as president on January 20.

The prime minister has not left Japan since emperor Hirohito fell seriously ill in September and the Recruit scandal began attracting national attention during the summer.

Uno also briefed Takeshita on the recently concluded midterm review of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks in Montreal.

Uno expressed regret that agriculture and other issue went unresolved, but said Japan's concern over its "food security" appeared to be recognized by other countries at the talks.

KYODO Reviews Montreal Trade Talks

*OW1012092788 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT
10 Dec 88*

[Text] Montreal, Dec. 9 KYODO—Despite Japan's strenuous efforts to keep its rice policy out of the international spotlight, the issue emerged from an international free trade meeting here with a larger number than ever of observers around the globe aware of it.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato, asked what the failure by the world's leading economic powers to reach agreement here on trade in agriculture meant to the Japanese Government, indicated that Japan's agricultural policy—particularly on rice production—needs some overhaul and his ministry is in the throes of doing so.

As the U.S. and the 12-nation European Community (EC) engaged in a pitched battle over "trade-distorting" subsidies in agriculture, Sato and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno tried for four full days Monday thorough Thursday to keep any hint of criticism about Japan's near-total ban on rice imports at bay.

At a news conference during the midterm review of progress in the Uruguay round, named after the country where the round was launched in September 1986, a senior U.S. trade negotiator was asked why Japan was keeping a low profile at the Montreal meeting despite the size of its trade surplus with the U.S.

The U.S. official responded that the meeting was a multilateral forum under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and was not an appropriate place to address Japan-U.S. trade relations.

The Japanese policy throughout the midterm review focused on how to justify its costly rice program while distancing itself from the U.S.-EC farm subsidy warfare.

"in the field of agriculture," Uno said on the opening day Monday of the midterm review, "let us take a realistic approach, extending due consideration to the interests of both exporting and importing countries, in working toward the goals enunciated in the Punta del Este Declaration" which was the launching pad of the new GATT round.

"I underline here that, as the world's largest and most stable net importer of agricultural products, Japan has a crucial interest in food security," the foreign minister declared.

The next day, Uno visited U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng at his hotel, telling him that Japan's agriculture has a lot of room to improve and that Tokyo supports a GATT initiative to establish a market-oriented system in farm trade.

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A Japanese official said Lyng told Uno that many Americans simply do not understand why Japan, the world's second largest economy after the U.S., has refused to import even a limited amount of rice from abroad.

Although agriculture was just one of 15 negotiating items covered by the Uruguay round it drew the biggest attention from delegates to the Montreal meeting and the press which covered it.

As ministers from GATT member countries opened the meeting at the Palais des Congres, thousands of farmers from around the world demonstrated outside the conference hall, denouncing moves to end government protection, estimated at over 200 billion dollars a year worldwide.

Despite significant progress in multilateral talks on trade in services, the functioning of GATT, dispute settlement and a host of other subjects, the rupture in farm negotiations obscured the achievements which U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said were unimaginable before the launching of the four-year Uruguay round.

While the farm talks dragged on, Japanese delegates went out of their way to cooperate with the U.S. in successfully concluding other sectors in a move described by some EC delegates as too pro-American.

After the farm talks collapsed Thursday night, a group of reporters surrounded Yeutter, peppering him with questions, including some about the Japanese performance at Montreal and another U.S. rice industry petition against Japan's rice import curbs.

"They performed superbly," the U.S. trade ambassador said. "They were supportive on a whole host of issues. It's first-class performance."

Asked if he would encourage the resubmission of such a petition, Yeutter said firmly, "I will not."

The news reached the Uno-led Japanese delegation within a matter of minutes.

And when Tsutomu Hata, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's agriculture panel, appeared with Uno and Sato at a news conference Friday, he was carrying a glass of champagne.

Aviation Talks With U.S. Inconclusive
*OW1012042488 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT
 10 Dec 88*

[Text] Washington, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan and the United States ended three days of civil aviation talks here Friday without producing any significant agreement, with the two sides divided over the number of Tokyo-Europe cargo flights planned by a U.S. airline, Japanese Government sources said.

The talks will be resumed next year in Tokyo. On the question of cargo flights between Tokyo and Europe via Anchorage, the U.S. side asked for more than five flights a week, while the Japanese side insisted on three, the sources said.

Flying Tiger Line Inc., a U.S. airline specialized in cargo operations, wants to embark on services on the transpacific European route from Tokyo.

Japan also rejected another U.S. request to expand the capacity of warehouses at Narita Airport on the grounds of limited space being available.

The U.S. side made a strong complaint against Japan Air Lines Co.'s failure to participate in a computerized on-line booking system operated by United Airlines Inc., the sources said.

In conjunction with this, the U.S. Department of Transportation reportedly hinted at the possibility of imposing sanctions against Japan, industry sources said.

Takeshita, Uno Comment on Gorbachev's UN Address
*OW1212075288 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT
 12 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Monday praised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "forward-looking tone" exhibited in his recent address before the United Nations.

"The unilateral proposal to reduce conventional forces is, basically, a move that should be welcomed," the prime minister said in the Diet in response to a query from an opposition party member.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno also welcomed the Soviet move, but added on a note of caution that Japan must watch how the proposal is actually carried out.

Gorbachev told the U.N. on December 7 that the Soviet armed forces would be cut by 500,000, or 10 percent, and that thousands of tanks and guns would be pulled out of Eastern Europe and Mongolia.

Uno said that while the proposed cuts "fell a bit short" of Japan's expectations, the move showed enthusiasm and gave impetus to the upcoming meeting between himself and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze will visit Japan from December 19-21 to take part in regular ministerial consultations.

Agenda Previewed for Shevardnadze Visit
*OW0912234888 Tokyo KYODO in English 2326 GMT
9 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The government has decided to ask Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze later this month to convey to North Korea a message seeking the early release of two detained Japanese seamen, according to government sources.

Japan will make the request when Shevardnadze visits here December 19-21 for a regular meeting with his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno, the sources said. The Soviet foreign minister will proceed from here to the Philippines and North Korea before returning home.

The government has also decided to take up the Korean situation as one of the major topics at the forthcoming foreign ministers' talks here, the sources said.

Japan made a similar request to Shevardnadze concerning the release of the Japanese seamen when he came here for the regular ministerial talks in January 1986 and visited Pyongyang later.

The seamen—Isamu Beniko, captain of the No. 18 Fujisan Maru, and Yoshiro Kuriura, chief engineer of the freezer cargo ship—have been detained in North Korea on spy charges since late 1983. North Korea accused them of letting a former North Korean soldier board their ship and spiriting him to Japan.

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official also on Friday evening suggested that Japan may ask Shevardnadze to pass on the message to Pyongyang seeking the early release of the seamen, depending on the developments in Shevardnadze's talks here.

During the talks, Japan will tell Shevardnadze about the government's desire to seek official contacts with North Korea, government sources said.

Japan's lifting in September of sanctions against North Korea imposed in January in protest against the 1987 KAL airliner incident will be explained in detail to Shevardnadze, the sources said.

The Japanese side had hoped to find an opportunity to expedite the seamen's release on the occasion of a proposed visit to Japan by a delegation of the North Korean Workers' (communist) Party. But the North Korean party told the Japan Socialist Party, which had invited such a visit, that it cannot send a delegation to Tokyo within this month.

Fishing Accord Concluded With USSR
*OW1212004388 Tokyo KYODO in English 2338 GMT
11 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union reached agreement here Sunday night on next year's fishing quotas in each other's 200-nautical mile fishing zone and related issues.

The two agreed that Japan will pay a total of 1.98 billion yen to the Soviet Union to catch 100,000 tons of fish in addition to each nation's fishing quota of 210,000 tons, unchanged from this year.

The amount of Japan's extra quota remained unchanged from this year but its "fishery cooperation fee" to the Soviets went up by some 16 percent.

The agreement came after two weeks of talks, an unusually short period for such annual talks on fishing quotas.

Japanese and Soviet fishermen will continue to cooperate in longline fishing on a private basis and Japanese fishermen will buy up to 100,000 tons of pollack from Soviet fishermen at sea, the agreement said.

The location of fishing zones of each nation will be unchanged from this year. The number of Japanese fishing boats will be 1,470, down from this year's 1,520, while the number of Soviet boats will be unchanged at 300.

Japan turned down a Soviet proposal to increase the number of calls at Japanese ports by Soviet fishing boats because of opposition from local residents and for national security reasons.

Japan will allow such calls at one designated port, the same as this year, which will be notified to the Soviet side by December 25 after domestic consultations.

The Soviet Union rejected a Japanese request for permission to operate in the "triangular waters" near the Shikotan and Habomai Islands, two of the four islands off Hokkaido which were taken over by the Soviets after the end of World War II, Japanese officials said.

Japan had asked to be allowed to catch an additional 160,000 tons in Soviet waters in exchange for payment of 16,400 yen per ton as the cooperation fee, the officials said.

But the Soviet Union demanded an increase in the fee to 23,500 yen a ton and kept the extra catch at 100,000 tons, unchanged from this year, they said. The two finally agreed on a compromise of 19,800 yen per ton for the same amount as this year.

Takeshita Holds News Conference on Stock Scandal
OW0912121588 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0445 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's news conference at his official residence in Tokyo—live; reporters asking questions not identified]

[Text] [Takeshita] Are you ready?

[Reporter] We will now begin Prime Minister Takeshita's news conference in his capacity as finance minister. First of all, in the midst of a mounting public distrust in politics due to the Recruit stock scandal, Finance Minister Miyazawa has resigned. Mr Prime Minister, what do you think about restoration of public trust in politics? Would you please answer this question first?

[Takeshita] Please let me make a statement first. In the wake of Mr Miyazawa's resignation, I have decided to take the post of the finance minister myself in accordance with Article 5 of the Administrative Organization Law. I believe that I will have to devote all my energy to the enactment of the tax reform bill, the pending task, and other bills. At the same time, since I will be taking charge of the fiscal and financial sectors, I intend to see that all goes well.

Now, I will answer your question. With a view to taking a realistic action on the so-called Recruit issue, I think the issue has the following four facets: The first concerns how the Stock Transaction Law should be in its ideal form to prevent the recurrence of such a case; the second concerns how to resolve tax law-related problems; the third is a facet related to the criminal law; and the fourth, I think, concerns the question of public distrust in politics as you have just mentioned, or the question of the so-called ethics of individual politicians.

With regard to the first facet, I believe that debates are being held in depth at the Stock Transaction Deliberative Council and other specialized groups.

Regarding the second aspect, six tax-related bills have recently passed the House of Representatives and are under review at the House of Councillors now. They are being revised, although it is impossible to say that a complete agreement has been reached on overall taxation yet.

On the third facet, I place my confidence in the prosecution authorities and believe that appropriate action will be taken. On the question of the so-called political ethics, I believe we should grapple with political reform, which is a prerequisite to all reforms. In concrete terms, I think that I must wholeheartedly tackle the question of how to implement the Public Office Election Law, how to handle the inflow and outflow of political funds, and how to enforce the ethics program adopted at the Diet.

[Reporter] Finance Minister Miyazawa resigned, taking the responsibility. In this connection, we understand that you—the prime minister—and the former prime minister are also involved in this case. Mr Prime Minister, in what manner are you going to take the responsibility?

[Takeshita] As a man who heads the administration, I am in a position to have easy access to related information. I should be more aware of this fact and work to promote an environment in which a repeat of such an affair will be made impossible. I think that this is one of my responsibilities.

[Reporter] The posts of prime minister and finance minister are considered to require fairly arduous work. It would be very exhausting to assume the two posts concurrently for some time. Till when do you intend to assume the post of finance minister concurrently?

[Takeshita] I have decided to hold the post myself in accordance Article 5 of the Administrative Organization Law. As I often say, one should decide his course of action in a sudden and resolute manner before it becomes the subject of popular talk. This is because one cannot act with confidence once people begin to talk about the action he will take. I have kept this adage in my mind since my childhood. Therefore, I will not tell it until the moment I make the sudden decision.

[Reporter] Concerning the six tax reform bills, the procedure consists of public hearings, then deliberations at the upper house special tax committee, passage by the upper house special committee, and passage through the full session of the upper house. What do you think of the prospects for the bills to be adopted before the close of the Diet session on 28 December?

[Takeshita] As I have stated time and again, people in the executive branch are not in a position to comment on the prospects of Diet deliberations. This has been a common understanding arrived at in the past few decades. Therefore, what I can only say is that I sincerely hope that the debate on the bills be closed after intensive deliberations.

[Reporter] Normally, at this time of the year, the drawing up of the 1989 budget would have been completed to a considerable degree. Since the prime minister has assumed the post of finance minister at this time, please tell us about the prospects for the 1989 budget—which I think will be worked on feverishly for the moment—to be drawn up before the year ends, or when the Finance Ministry or government draft budget is scheduled to be completed, and your policy for drawing up the 1989 budget.

[Takeshita] Regarding the preparation of the budget, as you have pointed out, the financial authorities are supposed to take all possible steps in order to be able to present a plan whenever asked to do so. I expect that the financial authorittees have been making all necessary preparations. I believe that the financial reform line

should be continued in drawing up the budget for the next fiscal year. As to the major features of the 1989 budget, they can only be appraised after the draft budget is drawn up. I think it will be improper to comment on it right now.

[Reporter] I think as the new finance minister, you do have a stance on the basic major features of the budget, for instance, in relation to business conditions. That is what I would like to ask.

[Takeshita] It is my understanding that your question deals not with my comments after the budget has been drawn up but with the ideas I have in my mind right now. Though I have just assumed the post of the finance minister, I have the idea of following the domestic demand-oriented line of promoting continuous growth without causing inflation. In this connection, if your question should also imply whether measures would be taken to stimulate the economy, then I would say that it would be sufficient to take the neutral line at present. As I have just assumed this post, I hope you would understand my position.

[Unidentified official] Are there any questions related to this subject? If there are any, please ask the questions within the time limit.

[Reporter] All the witnesses summoned to testify so far are either nongovernmental personnel or former government officials. A voice is now heard among the public in general as to why those political figures involved are not summoned to testify. Is the LDP opposed to or in favor of summoning them to testify?

[Takeshita] I will answer this question from my position as a part of the administrative branch and within the limit of my authority. This issue should be decided by the Diet. However, you may say that I had once participated in such a show; that is, I have had the experience of steering the Diet proceedings. If you are asking about my past experiences, it will be a different story. However, from my position as a part of the administrative branch, I feel that the issue on summoning witnesses should be decided by the Diet. In this connection, on the basis of the principle of the separation of the three powers [of administration, legislation, and judicature], I think it has now become established that no comments should be made on the issue.

[Reporter] According to recent public opinion polls, the support rate has dropped. Don't you think that the drop has been influenced by the administration's insufficient cooperation in the Recruit incident?

[Takeshita] I feel that I am solely to blame for the drop in the support rate.

[Reporter] As the post has been handed over to someone who has also procured the stocks, I don't think there is much change in the situation. Are you thinking of voluntarily submitting contracts or other documents? I mean, by Mr Prime Minister yourself.

[Takeshita] On this issue, I have stated my views during the deliberations at the House of Representatives.

[Reporter] With Mr Miyazawa's resignation, it has already been reported in some quarters that there are concerns over the possible collapse of the international cooperative system. And the dollar has already appreciated to 122.29 yen, registering some .70 appreciation as compared with yesterday's exchange rate. What is your view on the issue?

[Takeshita] I share the feelings that Mr Miyazawa has enjoyed the confidence of the international economic community, particularly international confidence for his knowledge about monetary issues. However, regarding the closing exchange rate this morning, as you have just mentioned, or the volume of transactions which amounted to approximately \$3.8 billion, I don't think there has been any influence on these results or on the foreign exchange rate itself.

[Unidentified official] Are there any other questions?

[Reporter] I am sure it has already reached your ears, Mr prime minister, that due to the delay in the deliberations on the tax reform bills, there is a strong demand, among industrial circles and medium and small businesses in particular, for earlier information on such issues as conversion of consumption tax and details about flexible application of the consumption tax bill. In your capacity as the finance minister, will you give the officials in charge a time limit for announcing the guidelines for flexible application of the consumption tax bill? Do you have any ideas about the time limit for working out the guidelines or about the early announcement of the guidelines?

[Takeshita] Concerning the conversion issue, I have received fairly accurate reports that the ministries and agencies concerned have separately been engaged in working out plans and holding briefing sessions. As for the flexible application as you have just mentioned it is an issue that concerns the final draft that was adopted at the House of Representatives. Far in advance, I gave instructions that the details about this issue should be clearly explained at the question-and-answer sessions of examining the tax reform bills so that they can be fully understood. I gave these instructions before assuming the post of the finance minister.

[Reporter] Regarding the political reform, Mr Prime Minister, you have said that you would put your heart and soul into it. And we are told that it will be done in 2 years. However, don't you think it is an urgent task, too?

[Takeshita] In fact, I have not said it will be done in 2 years. Some time ago, the program was readjusted and put in order. Since I am a member of the Diet—I am still a member of the Diet now, I feel that when the Diet greets its centennial, some drastic reform program should be worked out by then. Please understand that at that time I made the remarks with this idea in mind and a time limit should not necessarily be given to a reform program. I feel that the program will be a little different from the measures to deal with the views held by our countrymen at present. And it will be a drastic reform program somewhat different from the ideas that I have held since the time when I was studying the election law. In this connection, my basic idea is to start, first of all, with what can be done in promoting political reform. However, what I have to consult with the people from various circles includes the issues that should be handled only by the administrative branch as well as the issues that involve the Diet. And I hope that more time can be devoted to readjusting and putting the measures to deal with these issues.

[Reporter] Has the program been worked out for those issues that can be handled by the administrative branch?

[Takeshita] Of course, the program has been worked out for what the administrative branch can handle.

[Unidentified official] Since time is up, we will end the conference now. Thank you very much.

[Takeshita] Thank you very much.

Rally Calls for Takeshita Cabinet's Resignation
*OW1112101688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT
11 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—An estimated 45,000 unionists and their families held a rally in a central Tokyo park Sunday and called for the mass resignation of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's cabinet.

The rally at the Yoyogi Park was sponsored by four private organizations opposing the introduction of a new indirect tax and seeking a thorough probe into the Recruit Cosmos Co. stock scandal.

Tamotsu Saito, leader of one of the groups, told the gathering that Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had resigned to take responsibility for his aide's involvement in the scandal but there were still "bigger villains."

Leading politicians, their secretaries, bureaucrats, business executives and journalists bought unlisted stocks of the real estate firm and earned huge profits by selling them after they were put on the open market two years ago.

Among those involved in the scandal were aides to Takeshita, his predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone and Shin-taro Abe, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"It is the public voice that the Takeshita cabinet should resign en masse," Saito said.

Six tax reform bills are before the Diet for final approval which is expected to take place later this month. They include provisions to introduce a 3 percent indirect consumption tax on all goods and services.

After adopting an appeal for the cabinet resignation, the rally participants marched through busy streets in the Shinjuku and Shibuya Districts of Tokyo.

The rally sponsors said more than 650 private groups have expressed their opposition to the consumption tax and have gathered signatures from nearly 20 million people.

Public Servants To Exercise Self-Discipline
*OW1012184088 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT
10 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The government, rocked by the Recruit-Cosmos stock trading scandal, will order public servants to tighten discipline, political sources said Saturday.

The instructions, to be adopted at a cabinet session on December 16, include a ban on the purchase of unlisted stocks and restraint in helping sales of political fund-raising party tickets.

Government employees will also be told to refrain from accepting dining, wining and golfing.

The instructions will be issued in the name of the chief cabinet secretary to ministries and public agencies.

It will be the first such action to be taken by the government in nine years. The government ordered tightening of discipline following the disclosure of financial irregularities involving the then National Railways Construction Public Corporation in 1979.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told a news conference in Kagawa Prefecture Tuesday he would order the ministries concerned to work out disciplinary measures.

Takeshita will tell a cabinet meeting Tuesday public workers should exercise self-discipline.

The forthcoming instructions will order officials in supervisory positions to take the initiative to faithfully observe the code of conduct.

Business Leaders Regret Miyazawa's Resignation
*OW0912093588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0415 GMT
9 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japanese business leaders expressed regret Friday at the resignation of Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa from the cabinet.

Miyazawa has been under fire for his alleged involvement in the Recruit Cosmos stocks scandal, stalling deliberations on tax reform bills in the Diet.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said Miyazawa's resignation is regrettable particularly which a full-scale debate on six tax reform-related bills is taking place in the Diet.

Pointing to Miyazawa's contradictory testimony before a tax committee of the House of Councillors, Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, said Miyazawa's resignation was unavoidable.

However, these leaders unanimously called for the passage of the tax reform package during the current Diet session which ends on December 28.

House of Councillors Sets New Schedule
*OW0912131688 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT
9 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The House of Councillors will kick off full-fledged deliberations on tax reform legislation next week following the resignation of Kiichi Miyazawa as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Friday.

The upper chamber said Friday it will hold a tax system committee session on Monday and Tuesday.

Matazo Kajiki, chairman of the committee, who is a Liberal Democratic Party Member, made the decision on his own authority.

The committee voted later in the day to pass an LDP proposal to hold a public hearing on December 16 on the tax bills.

Members of the LDP, the Democratic Socialist Party and a minor political group, Shinsei Club-Zeikinto, voted for the proposal, while members of no. 2 opposition Komeito voted against it.

The Japan Socialist Party and Japan Communist Party boycotted the voting session.

The Diet is required to hold such a public hearing before enacting tax legislation.

The tax reform bills, which have already passed the more powerful House of Representatives, includes one to impose a controversial 3-percent indirect tax, a consumption tax on goods and services.

There have been no substantial debate on the bills since the lower house passed and referred them to the upper house in mid-November.

Opposition parties focused discussions at the committee only on Miyazawa's involvement in the recruit insider stock trading scandal.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who now serves concurrently as finance minister, said in a press conference that he will make every effort to obtain Diet approval of the tax bills before the current parliamentary session adjourns on December 28.

More Skilled Foreign Workers Needed
*OW0912210288 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT
9 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan should accept more vocational experts from foreign countries but not unskilled workers, a Labor Ministry panel said in a report released Friday.

Jiro Enjoji, chairman of the 18-member panel presented the report to Labor Minister Taro Nakamura amid a growing influx of unskilled foreign workers to Japan, particularly from Southeast Asian and other developing countries.

The report which was completed after seven rounds of discussions since last May said Japan should accept technical and administrative experts to promote international exchanges with other countries.

Japan needs more physicians, lawyers, nuclear power engineers and foreign language teachers, the report said.

The report, however, added the ministry would have to review the admission of skilled foreign office workers into Japan because they more easily cross job categories and could adversely affect the Japanese labor market.

It also said the ministry should consider whether foreign students graduating from Japanese University should be given an opportunity to work in Japan.

As for unskilled workers, the panel said the increasing number of foreign laborers would have a negative impact on Japan's labor market while running the risk of exposing them to poor labor conditions.

The panel forecast that the influx of foreign unskilled workers into Japan will continue due to wage differences between Japan and developing countries, saying the Labor ministry should take appropriate measures in cooperation with the Justice Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the National Police Agency.

Justice Ministry figures put the number of illegal foreign workers in Japan in 1987 at 11,307, almost double the 1985 figure and up 3,176 or 39.1 percent from 1986.

The panel said the Labor Ministry should take appropriate administrative measures to prevent foreigners studying the Japanese language from working instead of attending classes.

It also proposed the establishment of a work permit system requiring Japanese employers to seek Labor Ministry permission to hire foreign workers.

Concerning the immediate measures to control the incoming wave of foreign workers, the panel recommended that the Labor Ministry establish systems for proper entry procedures, guidance and consultation for Japanese employers on the recruitment of such workers.

Mongolia

Yondon on Soviet Troop Withdrawal Announcement *OW1112140688 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[Text] First Deputy Foreign Minister of Mongolia Yondon has made a statement at a briefing in Ulaanbaatar in connection with the UN address of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Highly assessing the significance of the address and the new Soviet proposals advanced in it, Yondon underlined that the decision of the Soviet Union on unilateral reduction of Soviet Armed Forces and the withdrawal of Soviet military units from the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary are a major contribution to furthering military detente and strengthening East-West trust and mutual understanding. The Soviet plans of converting defense enterprises are a worthy example to other powers.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Yondon went on to say that in accordance with the agreement between the Governments of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Soviet Union, a considerable part of the Soviet contingent, temporarily stationed on the Mongolian territory at the request of the Mongolian Government, will be withdrawn. As it is known, the withdrawal of Soviet military units from the Mongolian People's Republic began in April-June last year. That process was made possible as the result of the positive shift that had occurred in Asia and on the international arena as a whole.

The decision of the two governments on the withdrawal was dictated by the sincere desire to promote and strengthen mutual understanding and trust among states of Asia, first of all, with the People's Republic of China. It also promotes the furthering of the process of military detente in Asia.

Touching upon Mongolian-Chinese relations, Yondon said that thanks to efforts of both sides significant progress has been made towards total normalization of Mongolian-Sino relations. Contact between the two (parties), some public organizations, and creative unions are developing. Actions are being taken towards

resuming interparty ties. Contacts and business ties between foreign political departments of Mongolia and China had become regular, said Yondon.

Recently, a treaty on the border regime and procedures on regulating border questions between the two countries was signed in Beijing. It has been agreed that the Mongolian foreign minister will visit China next year.

Mongolia will build its relations with this neighboring socialist country—the People's Republic of China—on the basis of respect of each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity in the spirit of the sixties Mongolian-Chinese Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance. In this regard we welcome the readiness of the Chinese side to develop Sino-Mongolian relations, mainly on these principles, said Yondon.

We also hail the improvement of Soviet-Sino relations. The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China are the two only neighbors of Mongolia. Being major powers and permanent members of the UN Security Council, they bear huge responsibility for keeping peace and security in Asia and the world over. We proceed from the fact that the improvement of Soviet-Sino relations serves the interests of strengthening peace, developing good-neighborly cooperation between the states.

Commentary on Gorbachev Speech *OW1112144388 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] While addressing the session of the UN General Assembly Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has announced the Soviet Union's unilateral move in the sphere of reducing its armed forces. These moves are directed at radically reducing the military potentials of the NATO and the Warsaw Treaty countries, at creating such a situation on the European continent that the two military blocs will have enough forces and means for their defense but not enough for sudden attack (and) defensive operations.

Representatives of the Soviet military leadership have declared time and again that the Soviet Union has started restructuring its armed forces organizationally in order to impart them a defensive nature. During the next 2 years 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery systems, 800 combat planes will be reduced in the European part of the Soviet Union and on the territories of its European allies. The armed force groupings in the Asian part of the Soviet Union will be substantially reduced. In agreement with the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic a considerable part of Soviet troops temporarily stationed in Mongolia will return home. On the whole, the number of Soviet armed forces will be unilaterally reduced by 500,000 men. The most important are the decisions on reducing Soviet troops in the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary by 50,000 men,

and disbanding 6 tank divisions, reduction of 5,000 tanks, and withdrawing [words indistinct] and the number of other formations and units along with their armaments and military technology and reforming all the remaining divisions on the territories of Soviet allies in order to give them a strictly defensive nature.

Taking these moves, the Soviet leadership without any doubt has considered definite concern in West European countries over the huge military confrontation of NATO and Warsaw Treaty on this continent. However, a total realization of the defense doctrine and the principle of reasonable sufficiency in Europe is possible only on the bilateral footing between the NATO and Warsaw Treaty alliances.

The Mongolian public considers that now the matter is up to the countries of NATO, up to their constructive response to the well-known proposals of the socialist countries on the reducing of conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe.

Station Commentary on USSR-PRC Talks
*OW1012155188 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The meeting in Moscow between Mikhail Gorbachev and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and the outcome of the Soviet-Sino talks demonstrated the commencement of a new stage in relations between these two countries.

The recent estrangement between them is replaced by political dialogue which today is characterized by a constructive and open nature and mutual strivings to seek ways of expanding spheres of contact.

Today it can be said with full certainty that Soviet-Sino relations have entered the road of total normalization. Both Moscow and Beijing, and also judging by the statement by Chinese leaders, see no reason why the Soviet Union and China should not normalize the relations. Today, the Soviet Union and China are building relations of the new type—that of good neighborhood, mutually beneficial cooperation in the spirit of traditional friendship between the Soviet and Chinese peoples. Atmosphere of trust and mutual observation of the principles of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, noninterference in the internal affairs, respect for interest, views, experience and practice of the other side are increasingly asserting themselves in Soviet-Sino relations.

However, [word indistinct] development of Soviet-Sino relations is not to the liking of everyone. The best example is the apprehension that total normalization of relations between the USSR and China would not infringe upon its interest. [sentence as heard] This is

nothing but fantasy which proves that there are certain circles in the West to whom a new tendency in international relations is repugnant.

It is a well known fact that the Soviet Union sees total normalization of relations with China not to the detriment of a third country, including those countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, during his meeting with Qian Qichen, underlined that the Soviet Union has no intention to infringe upon anyone's interests in this region.

A similar position is held, too, by the Chinese leaders. The other day, chairman of the Central Military Council [as heard] of China, Deng Xiaoping, declared that the improvement of Soviet-Sino relations will not affect the development of China's ties with other countries.

The Soviet-Sino talks have deepened mutual understanding and have multiplied points of [word indistinct] but still have not removed all of the discrepancies in the [words indistinct] several vital problems.

But the most important outcome of the talks is that the sides are ready to discuss controversial issues in a calm and unprejudiced manner and in an atmosphere of goodwill. While considering the situation around Kampuchea for example, both the Soviet and Chinese sides stated their interest in the speedy, just and (lasting) solution of this regional conflict, and also voiced a desire to find such a solution which would be acceptable to all interested parties.

The talks in Moscow assumed that there is every reason to look to the future with optimism in the development of relations between the Soviet Union and China, for this is in the interest of the strivings of the peoples of these two great neighboring countries.

Namsray Meets USSR Deputy Justice Minister
*OW0812144988 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 8 Dec 88*

[Text] a delegation of the Great People's Hural of Mongolia led by Namsray, Politburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee, Mongolia's vice president, had met in Moscow with the Soviet Deputy Minister of Justice Nikolay Osetrov, who told him about the work being done in the USSR on improving the judicial and legal system.

The Mongolian delegation has also visited the Legal Information Research Center in Moscow. It is visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

North Korea

WPK Central Committee Meets 11 December
SK1212053688 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0527 GMT 12 Dec 88

[“Communiqué on 15th Plenary Meeting of Sixth Central Committee of WPK”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—A communiqué on the 15th plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was published today.

The plenary meeting was held on December 11, according to the communique.

The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-sung, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, presided over the plenary meeting.

Attending the meeting were the Presidium members, members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, members and alternate members of the party Central Committee and members of the Central Auditing Commission of the party.

The plenary meeting discussed the proposal of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee on relieving and electing the premier of the Administration Council to be submitted to the deliberation of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The plenary meeting discussed the proposal of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee to relieve Comrade Yi Kun-mo of the premiership of the Administration Council, at his request to be relieved of it since he found it difficult to carry on economic organization and external activities for health reasons, and decided to submit it to the Supreme People's Assembly for deliberation.

It discussed the proposal of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee to elect Comrade Yon Hyong-muk premier of the Administration Council and decided to submit it to the SPA for deliberation.

The plenary meeting examined the organizational question.

It recalled Comrade Yi Kun-mo from the membership of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee upon his release from the premiership of the Administration Council.

In connection with the transference of Comrade Yon Hyong-muk to another post, the plenary meeting recalled him from the post of secretary of the party Central Committee, and elected Comrade Han Song-yong secretary of the party Central Committee.

It appointed Comrade Hyon Chun-kuk editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN.

And it elected Comrade Chu Kyu-chang member of the party Central Committee to fill the vacancy.

Supreme People's Assembly Holds Session

KCNA Announces Meeting
SK0912223188 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2220 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted a decision to convene a session of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The fourth session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly will open in Pyongyang on December 12, 1988, according to Article 77 and Article 87 of the socialist Constitution of the DPRK, declares the decision dated December 9.

Session Held To Replace Premier
SK1212054288 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0534 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—The Fourth Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on December 12.

It was attended by the deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly.

The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-sung, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, appeared on the platform.

The platform was occupied by the members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, members of the Central People's Committee, vice-premiers of the Administration Council and members of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The session adopted the following agenda:

On relieving and electing the premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The session relieved Deputy Yi Kun-mo of the post of the premier of the Administration Council at his request.

The session elected Deputy Yon Hyong-muk premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK at the proposal of Comrade Kim Il-sung.

On his election as premier of the Administration Council at the session, Deputy Yon Hyong-muk solemnly swore to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that he would devotedly work to discharge the important mission assigned to him.

Yon Hyong-muk Appointed Premier
*SK1212035088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 12 Dec 88*

[Text] The Fourth Session of the Eighth SPA was held.

The Fourth Session of the DPRK Eighth SPA was held at Mansudae Assembly Hall on 12 December. The SPA deputies attended the meeting.

The great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president, was seated at the rostrum.

Members of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, members and candidate members of the Political Bureau, members of the Central People's Committee, vice premiers of the State Administration Council, and members of the SPA Standing Committee were seated at the rostrum.

The following agenda item was adopted at the meeting:

On recalling the premier of the DPRK State Administration Council and electing another one to the post.

At the meeting, at his request, Deputy Yi Kun-mo was recalled from the post of premier of the State Administration Council.

At the nomination of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president, the meeting elected Deputy Yon Hyong-muk as premier of the DPRK State Administration Council.

At the meeting, in connection with his election as premier of the State Administration Council, in front of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president, Deputy Yon Hyong-muk solemnly swore that he would devotedly struggle to fulfill his important assigned duties.

Kim Pyong-il Appointed Ambassador to Bulgaria
*SK1112113588 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1100 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[Text] The DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Bulgaria has been appointed.

According to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee, Comrade Kim Pyong-il has been appointed as DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Daily Denounces U.S. Army Field Exercise
*SK1112085788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0838 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[“Ill-Boding War Gamble of Aggression Army”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The Second Infantry Division of the U.S. imperialist aggression Army occupying South Korea launched a field training exercise code-named “Autumn Haze 2” north of Seoul on December 10, according to the U.S. ASSOCIATED PRESS report.

About 12,000 U.S. imperialist aggression troops and over 3,000 vehicles are to participate in this four-day exercise.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today brands it as an adventurous play with fire for a surprise attack on our Republic.

The news analyst says:

The U.S. imperialists are never weary of saying that they want the relaxation of the situation on the Korean peninsula. But their act gainsays this. That the U.S. imperialists are closing the chapter of this year with a war gamble vividly shows how desperately these war thirsty elements are working to light the fuse of war against the North.

But this is not all that the U.S. imperialist aggressors pursue in their current drill.

Starting the war game, the U.S. imperialist aggression Army said “the South Korean public should not be alarmed by increased activity in the division units.” But they seek to alarm and threaten with armed force the people who rose up in the anti-U.S. struggle.

The ever more undisguised war rampage of the U.S. imperialists is an offspring of the crisis of their colonial rule in South Korea, which reveals their bellicose nature.

Paper Condemns U.S. ‘Nuclear’ Bases in South
*SK1212101788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 12 Dec 88*

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—If the United States is truly interested in nuclear disarmament and wants world peace, it must refrain from doing such double-dealing acts as reinforcing and deploying nuclear weapons and increasing the danger of a nuclear war in one part of the globe while pretending to reduce them and relaxing the situation in the other part, demands NODONG SINMUN today.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets, it notes, announced a plan to build a “special strategic airforce base”, the “largest” nuclear airforce base in the world, in

Sosan County, South Chungchong Province, in July, and they are these days expelling peasants from this county and stepping up their plan to build a nuclear military base in the Cheju Island.

Denouncing this, the author of a NODONG SINMUN commentary says that the ill-boding moves of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets well show to what grave extent they have gone in their preparations for a nuclear war assuming dangerous character. The commentary continues:

The present U.S. rulers are further reinforcing South Korea as a military base, a nuclear base, claiming that the Korean peninsula is "the frontline of the U.S. strategy" in which they "are vitally interested" in executing their global strategy.

By turning South Korea into a nuclear attack base, the U.S. imperialists intend to link Japan proper, Okinawa and the southern part of the Korean peninsula including the Cheju Island by nuclear attack bases and thus seize control on the air and sea in this region and put our Republic and other socialist countries within the ranges of their nuclear weapons doubly and trebly.

Korea is neither a state of the United States across the ocean nor its nuclear test ground and it cannot be the "front defence area" and "frontline nuclear strategic base" of the United States.

We can never allow South Korea, a half of our country, to be reduced to a U.S. nuclear strategic base and our beloved homeland to a theatre of nuclear war for the U.S. imperialists.

The Korean peninsula must be a nuclear-free, peace zone without nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

If the United States wants peace of Korea, it must unconditionally and immediately renounce its schemes to grip South Korea as a nuclear base, affirmatively respond to the DPRK's peace proposals and withdraw all its nuclear weapons and aggression troops from South Korea as demanded by the Korean people and the world peaceloving people.

The South Korean puppets must stop at once the treacherous criminal moves to leave the sacred land to the U.S. aggressors even as their nuclear strategic base and throw fellow countrymen into the holocaust of nuclear war, clamouring about the "protection of nuclear umbrella".

South Scholar Blames U.S. for Peninsula's Tragedy
SK1012155088 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1510 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—"It was not until I went to the United States that I realized the United States is to blame for the tragedy of the Korean peninsula and saw what wrongdoings it was committing

in the Third World countries," declared an old scholar Kong Pyong-u, 82, who came back to South Korea recently after participating in the movement for democracy for eight years in the United States.

He said this, expressing his view on the United States and reunification of Korea, according to a South Korean paper HANGYORE SINMUN November 29.

He repented his misled life in the past days when he mistook the United States for a country of "humanism".

Recalling that Reagan dared to call the traitor Chon Tu-hwan to the United States as his "first guest" shortly after the Kwangju massacre, the scholar expressed his indignation at this.

Manifesting his ardent desire for independence, democracy and reunification, he said: "I intend to strive for peace, disarmament, withdrawal of nuclear weapons, pull-out of U.S. troops and establishment of a neutral and peaceful reunified state."

South To Import Armored Riot-Control Vehicles
SK1012102388 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u military gang is planning to import armored riot-control vehicles equipped with water cannons, according to a report.

The fascist clique sent senior police officers on December 4 to Britain and several other West European countries for import of there vehicles worth 420,000 U.S. dollars per unit.

This fact clearly shows how desperately the military fascist clique is working to block the growing struggle of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification.

South Accused of Intensifying Repression
SK1112081988 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0815 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u fascist clique decided to increase the police force by over 3,600 men at some 1,180 police booths in six cities including Seoul, Pusan and Taegu and drastically increase the number of detectives of anti-communist sections next year, according to the announcement of the South Korean puppet police headquarters December 9.

The fascist clique also decided to set up two new police stations and about 30 police booths next year.

This is one of the first measures taken by the No Tae-u clique after the cabinet reshuffle December 5. This reveals their intention to check the anti-U.S. struggle for independence and the anti-fascist struggle for democracy of the students and people by intensifying fascist repression.

Visit to Military Units in South Denounced
SK1112082588 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0812 GMT 11 Dec 88

[“Puppets’ Visit to Army Units Reveals Their Traitorous Nature”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The puppet acting prime minister and newly-appointed “ministers” paid a “consolatory visit” to puppet Ground, Naval and Air Force units on December 9 after the cabinet reshuffle, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This reveals that the new puppet administration is not different from the preceding one and is a group of traitors pursuing the policy of confrontation and war between the North and the South.

Following the new “defence minister’s” outcry for “establishment of combat power superior to the North” at the “inaugural ceremony,” the “acting prime minister” and “ministers” incited war fever against the North at puppet ground, naval and Air Force units.

Facts clearly show that the No Tae-u clique is a group of separatists and warmaniacs seeking a way out in intensified moves for confrontation and war, not in democracy, peace and reunification.

Daily Urges Response to Talks Proposal
SK1112100088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0008 GMT 10 Dec 88

[NODONG SINMUN 10 December commentary: “High-Level North-South Political and Military Talks Must Be Held Immediately”]

[Text] As is known, on 16 November, according to the decision at the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the SPA Standing Committee, and the DPRK State Administration Council, the premier of the DPRK State Administration Council sent to the South Korean prime minister a letter proposing to open high-level North-South political and military talks in order to discuss measures to alleviate the prevailing political and military confrontation. In the letter, after stressing the significance of convening high-level North-South political and military talks and pointing out the issue of composing delegations and ways to discuss agenda items, our side cordially proposed holding the first talks around mid-December at Tongilgak, on our side of Panmunjom. Twenty-odd days have passed since our side sent the letter, and the date of the first talks is at hand. However,

the South Korean side has not given an answer to our proposal. This disappoints the whole nation which earnestly desires peace in the country and her peaceful reunification.

As people at home and abroad unanimously recognize, our proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks is a very timely and appropriate measure that wholly corresponds to the earnest desire of the whole nation for peace and peaceful reunification and to the development of the current political situation, which foresees the alleviation of tension.

The Korean people, who have already suffered a round of war, have lived in a very unstable state called armistice, which is neither peace nor war. Political and military confrontation is intensifying daily, and as a result, the danger of armed conflict always exists. It is clear to anyone what the circumstances will be if this acute political and military confrontation continues to exist. If a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it is, after all, our nation in the North and South which will suffer damage, and it is our land in the North and South which will be devastated.

As is foreseen in our recent all-inclusive peace proposal, the problem of alleviating the prevailing political and military confrontation between the North and South must be resolved first if a breakthrough for peace on the Korean peninsula is to be achieved. If this problem is not resolved, misunderstanding and mistrust between the North and South cannot be removed, and no practical achievements can be brought about on the road toward peace and peaceful reunification.

Differences in ideas and systems of the North and South can in no way be a pretext under which our nation will live eternally divided, under which those of the same nation consider the opposing side an enemy, and under which they aim guns and cannon against each other.

Today, countries and peoples who have different ideas, systems, and blood are embarking on a road toward reconciliation after freeing themselves from the past era's confrontation. Then, why on earth must fellow countrymen who are of the same blood live back-to-back as if they are enemies.

Peace in our country depends entirely on how we ourselves, in the North and South, independently decide. Even if it is difficult for them to realize the reunification of the country right now, the North and South, which are of the same nation, must probe ways to live peacefully after being reconciled and united.

Out of a noble patriotic desire to open a favorable phase for peace and peaceful reunification by alleviating political and military confrontation between the North and South at all costs, we proposed high-level North-South political and military talks and repeatedly advanced magnanimous and flexible overtures to realize this proposal. If high-level

North-South political and military talks are held; if measures are taken to alleviate the prevailing political and military confrontation between the North and South, which we advanced in our all-inclusive peace proposal; and if all other questions related to alleviating the situation are widely discussed and resolved, there is no doubt that an epochal phase will open in removing the danger of war and alleviating tension.

High-level North-South political and military talks will help make progress in parliamentary talks that are currently being prepared; will have a good influence upon continuing manifold dialogues, including Red Cross talks and economic talks; and will in the long run serve as a bridge in arranging highest-level North-South talks.

The proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks is a just proposal that can be accepted by anyone who hopes for peace in the country and her peaceful reunification because it is a realistic and reasonable proposal. The opinion of the person in authority in South Korea who said that he is willing to discuss the alleviation of tension, arms reduction, and other military matters is also taken into full consideration in this proposal.

If the South Korean side is truly willing to meet face-to-face with us and discuss military matters as it says it will, it will have no reason not to respond to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks. Nevertheless, even though it has talked about alleviation of tension and improvement of North-South relations, the South Korean side has not yet responded to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks and has done such behind-the-scenes things as proclaiming the northern half of our republic to be a hostile state in light of the State Security Law, inciting anticomunist confrontation, asking outside forces for security cooperation, crying to be militarily superior to the North, and pursuing the creation of a so-called international environment for fixing the division of the country. This makes us doubt the true meaning of the words of the persons in authority in South Korea that they are willing to be reconciled with us and to discuss military matters, including arms reduction. The stand and attitude toward peace and the reunification of the fatherland should be proved not by words but by practical acts.

If they truly hope for the improvement of relations with us, for reconciliation, and for the alleviation of tension, the persons in authority in South Korea must respond to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks. We will make patient efforts in the future also to realize high-level North-South political and military talks.

From the South Korean side's attitude to the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, we will determine whether or not what they have said is sincere.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Gorbachev Proposal
*SK1212025988 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[Press statement by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released on 11 December]

[Text] During his 7 December speech at the 43d UN General Assembly, Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet, advanced various constructive proposals to safeguard peace and security in the world and to make international relations sound. Epochal measures and new proposals on arms reduction, the debt of developing countries, ecological and environmental issues, development of space, dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States, and other issues—measures and proposals that the Soviet Union has now taken or advanced—are important overtures to improve international relations and to achieve international stability in step with the trends of alleviation of international tension and dialogue. In particular, the arms reduction measure of drastically reducing the number of the Soviet Union's Armed Forces and the amount of its conventional weapons within two years and of withdrawing a sizable portion of the Soviet Union's military units and military equipment stationed in a variety of socialist countries shows that the Soviet Union, which has achieved a breakthrough in nuclear arms reduction, is turning its sincere efforts to realize overall arms reduction into practical action.

The Korean people welcome the important proposal that the Soviet Union has advanced in order to guarantee peace and security in the world and to make the overall international situation sound. The DPRK Government has all along extended active support and encouragement to the constructive proposals which various countries of the world have advanced to alleviate international tension, to put an end to the arms race, and to realize overall arms reduction, including nuclear arms reduction, and their peace-loving efforts to realize them.

Putting an end to the arms race and realizing arms reduction is one of the important questions arising in opposing war and defending peace at present. This cannot be realized only through the unilateral efforts of individual countries. Only when one claps using both hands, can a sound be made, and only when many people clap, can there be a loud sound. Likewise, on the question of putting an end to the arms race and realizing arms reduction in the worldwide sphere, only when relevant people make a practical response, can this question be resolved.

The trend of the times shows that now is not the time for the United States, which while maintaining massive military forces is deploying its troops and weapons of mass destruction to various places in the world, to babble emptily about peace and security in the world or

to issue unilateral arms reduction demands to the other side. In step with the reality in which practical arms reduction measures are being taken, the United States must duly show its good intention to the people of the world by immediately taking the measure of withdrawing or reducing its forces in South Korea and various other places in the world.

Over the past 40 years during which the United States has militarily occupied South Korea, the dark cloud of war has all along hovered over the Korean peninsula. This clearly shows that the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. forces is a basic cause that creates tension on the Korean peninsula.

The 7 November joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, SPA Standing Committee, and the State Administration Council of the DPRK presented, along with the four principles on safeguarding peace on the Korean peninsula, an all-inclusive peace proposal that foresees phased withdrawal of the U.S. forces and arms reduction by the North and South. This is a realistic and just proposal that provides a firm guarantee for realistically removing the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and realizing the peaceful reunification of the country.

If it is truly interested in peace in the world and arms reduction, in step with today's worldwide trend in which the arms reduction process, which started with nuclear arms reduction, has reached the process of presenting the question of reducing conventional forces, the United States must sincerely respond to realizing our all-inclusive peace proposal. Whether or not the United States accepts our all-inclusive peace proposal will be a touchstone that will determine whether or not it sincerely wants peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the world.

With a sense of responsibility for peace in the world and a firm resolve to realize the independent reunification of the fatherland, the DPRK Government will also in the future make all sincere efforts to implement the four principles on guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula and to realize the all-inclusive peace proposal.

[Dated] 11 December 1988, Pyongyang

Gorbachev Proposals Welcomed

*SK1212052788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0503 GMT 12 Dec 88*

[“United States, Too, Should Withdraw its Armed Forces From South Korea in Conformity With Soviet Disarmament Measures; Statement of Spokesman of DPRK Foreign Ministry”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement to the press Sunday, welcoming the important proposals put forward by Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general

secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in his speech at the 43rd General Assembly session of the United Nations.

The statement says:

The innovative measure and new proposals of the Soviet Union concerning arms reduction, debts of the developing countries, ecological environment, development of outer space, Soviet-U.S. dialogue and so on this time are an important initiative to improve international relations and achieve international stability in keeping with the trend of international detente and dialogue.

Especially, the unilateral arms reduction measure for drastically cutting the numerical strength of the Soviet Armed Forces and the amount of conventional weapons and withdrawing considerable part of the Soviet Army units and military hardware from socialist countries within two years shows that the Soviet Union which has made a breakthrough in nuclear disarmament is putting into practice its efforts and sincerity for realising disarmament as a whole.

The Korean people welcome the important proposals put forward by the Soviet Union this time to guarantee world peace and security and make the overall international situation healthy.

The DPRK Government has consistently extended active support and encouragement to the constructive initiatives of different countries to ease the international tension, put a stop to the arms race and realise allround disarmament including nuclear disarmament and to the peaceloving efforts to bring them into effect.

To put an end to the arms race and realise disarmament is one of the important questions arising in defending peace against war at present.

This is a question which cannot be resolved by unilateral efforts of a certain individual country.

As a clap is made by two hands and hand-clapping is made louder by many people, so the question of stopping arms race and practising disarmament world wide can be settled only when there is a practical response from the parties concerning it.

The trend of the time shows that it is not a time for the United States, which has deployed troops and mass destruction weapons in different parts of the world, maintaining large Armed Forces, to confine itself to empty talk about world peace and security or to demand unilateral disarmament of the other side.

12 December 1988

The United States, too, should show good faith to the world's people by immediately taking a step for withdrawing and reducing its Armed Forces from South Korea and other parts of the world in conformity with the reality in which practical measures for disarmament are being taken.

Not a day has passed without a dark cloud of war hovering on the Korean peninsula in the past 40 years since the U.S. military occupation of South Korea.

This clearly shows that the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea is the main factor of the tension in the Korean peninsula.

On November 7, a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council of the DPRK put forward four principles for the guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula and a package of peace proposals envisaging the phased pullout of the U.S. Armed Forces and arms reduction in the North and the South.

These are realistic and just proposals providing a firm guarantee for practically removing the danger of war from the Korean peninsula and realising the peaceful reunification of the country.

If the United States is truly interested in world peace and disarmament, it should sincerely respond to the materialisation of our comprehensive peace proposals in keeping with the present global trend in which the process of disarmament that began with nuclear disarmament has reached a stage of proposing the reduction of conventional weapons.

Whether to accept our package peace proposals or not would be a touchstone showing whether the United States really wants peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the world, or not.

The DPRK Government will make all sincere efforts to carry the four principles for the guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula and the comprehensive peace proposals into practice with the noble sense of responsibility for world peace and the unshakable will to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Kim Il-song Sends Condolence Message to Gorbachev

*SK1012033988 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, sent a condolence message to Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in connection with the many casualties and material loss from the strong earthquake in the area of Armenia of the Soviet Union.

The message reads:

Moscow

Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

I have received the sad news that an area of Armenia of the Soviet Union has suffered many casualties and material loss from a strong earthquake on 7 December. On behalf of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK Government, the Korean people, and myself, I express our deep sympathy and condolences to you, and through you, to the residents of the area that suffered the earthquake.

I believe that the active efforts of the Soviet party, government, and people will help get over the damage of the earthquake in a short period of time and help the residents of the area that suffered the damage settle their lives.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK

[Dated] 9 December 1988, Pyongyang

KCNA Reports Message

*SK1012040888 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0402 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on December 9 sent a message of sympathy to Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, upon the enormous losses in human lives and materials caused by a strong earthquake in some parts of Armenia, the Soviet Union.

The message says:

I have received the unhappy news that a strong earthquake hit some parts of Armenia, the Soviet Union, on December 7, causing enormous losses in human lives and materials.

I, in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people and in my own name, express deep sympathy and consolation to you and, through you, to the population of the quake-stricken area.

I believe that the earthquake damages will be healed and the life of the people of the disaster area be stabilized in a short time by active efforts of the Soviet party and government and the Soviet people.

Cadres Visit Soviet Embassy
SK1112082988 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—Korean cadres called at the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang Saturday and expressed condolences on the heavy loss of human lives caused by a strong earthquake in some parts of Armenia, the Soviet Union.

The visitors included Yi Kun-mo, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council; Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, and other officials concerned.

They laid a wreath in the joint name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and observed a moment's silence in memory of the deceased.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society and the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society also visited the Soviet Embassy, laid wreaths and expressed condolences.

Diplomatic envoys and embassy officials of different countries here also visited the Soviet Embassy and expressed condolences.

Red Cross To Send Relief Goods
SK1212111288 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1049 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK decided to send relief goods to the alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of the USSR in connection with big losses of human lives and materials caused by a strong earthquake in some parts of Armenia, the Soviet Union.

SPA Sends Condolences to PRC People's Congress
SK1112080788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0804 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on December 10 sent a message of condolence to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on the death of its Vice-Chairman Ulanhu.

The message says:

Comrade Ulanhu was a veteran revolutionary who had participated in the revolution in his early years and devoted his whole life to the revolution and construction of the Chinese people, holding important positions of the party and state.

We will remember the efforts made by Comrade Ulanhu for the Chinese revolution and construction and Korean-Chinese friendship.

Scientific Protocol Signed With Poland
SK1212102788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1023 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—A protocol of the 12th session of the inter-governmental sub-committee of scientific and technological cooperation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Poland was signed in Warsaw on December 5.

CPRF Advocates All-Nation Conference
SK10121115088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0904 GMT 9 Dec 88

[CPRF open letter to the Headquarters for the Promotion of an All-Nation Conference in South Korea issued on 9 December]

[Text] The CPRF sent an open letter on 9 December to the Headquarters for the Promotion of an All-Nation Conference in connection with the proposal of South Korean democratic organizations to convene an all-nation conference for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The letter reads:

To the Headquarters for the Promotion of an All-Nation Conference for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula:

We have heard that democratic organizations in South Korea have recently put forward a proposal to convene an all-nation conference out of a desire to settle military and political issues, including the nuclear issue, on the Korean peninsula by peaceful means through the united strength of the entire nation and that your headquarters is pushing ahead with preparatory works for it.

In view of the prevailing situation, we consider the convening of an all-nation conference pushed ahead by your headquarters to be of great significance in promoting peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

If and when the fellow countrymen in the North and South and abroad sit together, transcending differences in thought, ideology, political view, religion, organization, and grouping, that in itself will greatly contribute to creating an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity.

Moreover, if the all-nation conference is held and the minds of all fellow countrymen are pooled in the anti-war, antinuclear, and peace movement to resolve the acute political and military questions between the North and South, including the nuclear issue, in the common interests of the nation, it will undoubtedly open an epochal phase in achieving peace on the Korean peninsula and the peaceful reunification of the country.

As you stressed, our people now face an urgent common task to remove the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and to ease the acute tension. The United States, which has long designated the Korean peninsula as a test site for a confrontation of power in the eighties, has converted South Korea into an enormous nuclear powder magazine and a nuclear forward base unheard of anywhere in the world and is now openly pursuing the provocation of a nuclear war in this land.

It is widely known that the large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercise conducted throughout all of South Korea every year is a nuclear test war designed to light the fuse of a nuclear war.

In fact, South Korea is the only place on the face of the earth where nuclear weapons are so densely deployed; and the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is not a question of the distant future, but is a very serious question, truly right before our eyes.

Today, when detente and disarmament has become a trend, why should our nation alone allow U.S. nuclear weapons, which are rejected anywhere else in the world, to stay in our midst and lead an uneasy daily life under the danger of a nuclear war, and for whom?

It is none other than our nation and our land that would suffer a nuclear holocaust if a thermonuclear war breaks out on the Korean peninsula.

We can never remain an onlooker to this grave situation under which the 3,000-ri land of the fatherland, which has been built up through the generations, would be reduced to ruins in the flame of a nuclear war and all fellow countrymen would suffer a nuclear holocaust for others' interests.

We should under all circumstances remove the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and resolve the acute political and military problems between the North and South with the concerted efforts of the nation, thereby opening a broad road to peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

Proceeding from this stand, our side has repeatedly put forth in recent years the most reasonable and realistic proposals to save the nation, including the proposal to arrange a nationwide political consultative conference participated in by representatives of all political parties and public organizations and personages of all social standings in the North and South and representatives of

overseas Korean organizations and the proposal to hold negotiations to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, and we have made every sincere effort possible for their realization.

In particular, to guarantee a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and in view of the new situation prevailing within and outside of Korea and the desire of the people at home and abroad for peace, we confirmed some time ago a comprehensive peace overture which envisages a phased reduction of all existing armed forces in the North and South, including the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, and a firm guarantee of peace and a series of measures to ease the present political and military confrontation between the North and South. We proposed this to the United States and the South side.

All of these proposals we put forth proceeded from the earnest desire to remove the danger of a nuclear war and make a breakthrough for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country through dialogue and negotiation at any cost.

From this viewpoint, we fully support and hail the all-nation conference that your headquarters promoted and consider it to be a just nation-saving measure which fully accords with the peace efforts we have so far made consistently.

We are ready to respond at any time to your proposal regarding the convening of the all-nation conference.

We consider that the all-nation conference to be convened in the future should have the broad participation by representatives of public organizations in the North and South and by overseas Koreans' organizations and individuals who aspire for peace and the independent reunification of the country.

In addition to the issues raised by your headquarters, all other matters arising in promoting peace and the peaceful reunification of the country should be discussed freely at the conference without any restrictions.

Panmunjom or a third country may be chosen as the venue of the conference, taking into consideration travel conveniences of the participants.

Although it is our hope that the conference be convened at the earliest possible date in view of the urgent nature of the issues to be discussed there, we consider it all right if it is convened some time in January next year, as your side had hoped.

Also, considering it necessary to amply discuss in advance matters of working procedures concerning the convocation of the conference for successfully holding the all-nation conference, as it will become a matter of concern at home and abroad, we cordially [chonjunghui]

propose to your side to have preliminary contacts between the working representatives of the fellow countrymen in the North and South and abroad at an early date.

We hope that you will let us know if your headquarters has any detailed plans concerning the convocation of the conference.

Daily Supports CPRF Call
SK1112105388 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1042 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed commentary entitled "Timely Just Initiative" on the full support and welcome expressed by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) in its open letter dated December 9 to the proposal for convening an "all-nation conference" for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula made by democratic organisations of South Korea.

The commentary says:

In its open letter the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland considered the conception of the "all-nation conference" for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula to be a just nation-saving measure which fully accords with the peaceful efforts for reunification we have so far made consistently.

And the CPRF indicated the scope of participants in the conference, the main orientation of the agenda to be discussed, the venue and date of the conference, and proposed to have shortly preliminary contact of working representatives of the North and the South and overseas compatriots to discuss working procedures concerning the convocation of the conference. This is a very timely compatriotic step in view of the ardent desire of the whole nation for peace and peaceful reunification and in view of the requirement of the situation which raised the removal of the danger of a nuclear war and elimination of the acute political and military confrontation between the North and the South by joint efforts of the nation as a more urgent task than ever before.

If compatriots in the North and the South and overseas sit at one place, transcending ideology, idea, organisation and grouping, it will be good for creating an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity and bringing together the minds and voices of the entire fellow countrymen in anti-war, anti-nuclear, peace movement for resolving the acute political and military problems between the North and South including nuclear problem in the common interest of the nation. The "all-nation conference" which is beneficial to the North and the South, to the nation and to peace and peaceful reunification must be convened without fail. We are ready to

respond any time to proposals of the South Korean democratic organisations concerning the convocation of the "all-nation conference" and will make every sincere effort for it.

South Korea

South Lawmakers Postpone Meeting With North
SK1212100588 Seoul YONHAP in English
0951 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korean lawmakers have tentatively decided to postpone for two weeks the proposed inter-Korean contact slated for Thursday to discuss a full-dress joint parliamentarian conference, a National Assembly source said Monday.

The decision for the delay appeared to be largely due to the recent resignation of Pak Chun-kyu as head of South Korea's delegation to the talks.

Pak was appointed chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party last Thursday.

South Korea's delegation failed to select Pak's successor during an inter-party meeting Saturday, the source said.

South and North Korean lawmakers agreed on Nov. 18 on the format for a full-dress parliamentary conference, and promised to meet again Dec. 15 for the seventh preliminary meeting to discuss details.

The delegation plans to inform its North Korean counterpart by Wednesday of the postponement, as it was agreed that such notice would be provided 24 hours in advance.

Kim Tae-chung Hints at Seeking No-Confidence Vote
SK1012033088 Seoul YONHAP in English
0302 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—In a major change of attitude, opposition leader Kim Tae-chung hinted Saturday of the possibility of initiating a no-confidence movement against the government of President No Tae-u.

"I have growing pessimism toward the No government because it was not me but the government which has changed its attitude," Kim said.

Kim has maintained that he will not make an issue of the projected interim test of public confidence on the No government if No "does well" with democratic reforms.

During his presidential campaign last year, No pledged to conduct an interim test of public confidence on his government if elected president.

"I, braving some misunderstanding (of dissidents), had promised to spare no efforts to cooperate with the No government if the No government does well (with democratic reforms)," Kim said.

"The recent reshuffles of the government and the ruling party leadership lineups, however, showed no progress but only a setback in its determination for democratic reforms," he said.

Kim said he will decide his position on the interim confidence test in February or March next year after observing public opinion.

As for a meeting between No and leaders of the three opposition parties, a meeting which No is reportedly seeking, Kim also indicated that he will not respond for the time being.

"It won't be too late to meet him (No) after watching the release of imprisoned dissidents as well as the amnesty and restoration of civil rights for those people which No had pledged," he said.

Kim's rival opposition leader Kim Yong-sam echoed his call for a meeting after "visible actions" such as restoration of dissidents' honor and their compensation.

"There is no reason to oppose the meeting between No and the three opposition leaders, but it is desirable to meet after No takes visible actions," Kim Yong-sam said.

Kim also said it would be impossible to close by the end of the year the activities of National Assembly ad hoc panels probing various irregularities during the government of disgraced former President Chon Tu-hwan.

He demanded that Chon and his predecessor Choe Kyu-ha appear at the National Assembly hearings and reveal the truth.

Police, Students Clash on Road to Chon's Refuge

*SK1012092988 Seoul Television Service in Korean
0830 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[Text] Twenty-eight people, including college students and members of the Buddhist Council, who were going to Paektam Temple clashed with police who were attempting to block them. As a result of this, seven persons, including students, were injured.

Twenty-eight people, including four Buddhist monks belonging to the Council of Buddhist Movement for the Independent Reunification of the Nation and college students, staged demonstrations demanding the arrest and punishment of Chon and opposing his seclusion in Paektam Temple at around 1100 today on the road 7 km from Paekdam Temple in Inje County, Kangwon Province.

After staging demonstrations for about an hour, they attempted to head for Paektam Temple. However, they clashed with police who were blocking them. As a result, four students and three policemen were injured and presently are under medical treatment at Inje General Hospital.

Citizens, Students Stage Demonstrations in Seoul

SK1012102088 Seoul Christian Broadcasting System Network in Korean 0930 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] About 2,000 citizens and students, holding the fourth rally to demand a probe of the Kwangju massacre and irregularities of the Fifth Republic and the punishment of those who were involved, staged sporadic demonstrations from 1530 this afternoon at Myeongdong Cathedral, in the neighborhood of Chungang Theatre, and in Chongno 2-ka, throwing firebombs at the police who were blocking them by firing tear gas canisters.

Prior to this, they held the fourth rally in front of Myeongdong Cathedral and demanded that Chon Tu-hwan and his wife be arrested and punished to straighten out the distorted history and that the No Tae-u regime, which protects them, must resign.

They also demanded that by formulating special laws to punish those who committed anti-national acts and establishing a special court, all those who were involved in Kwangju massacre and irregularities of the Fifth Republic be brought to the trial by the people and history.

Sigur Cited on U.S. Contacts With North

*SK1112023488 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 2*

[By correspondent Chang Chae-kun]

[Text] Tokyo—Gaston Sigur, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, has revealed that the United States has made several diplomatic-level contacts with North Korea.

In an interview with the daily MAINICHI SHIMBUN, published Saturday, Sigur made it clear that the contact between Washington and Pyongyang has been made after the U.S. partially lifted a ban on exchanges with North Korea on Oct. 31.

Sigur's remark came after Secretary of State George Shultz revealed in an interview Thursday with the ASAHI SHIMBUN the United States' "willingness to have dialogue with Pyongyang."

U.S. Ambassador Cited on SOFA
SK1212083088 Seoul YONHAP in English
0811 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—U.S. Ambassador to Korea James R. Lilley confirmed Monday that South Korea and the United States are now studying a change in their existing military command relationship into a new arrangement that may better suit changing realities.

The U.S. ambassador also said the United States has already begun discussing with the South Korean Government on rewriting the Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]. The agreement, which outlines the legal status of U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, has often been the target of criticism here for its alleged favoritism toward the U.S. side.

While speaking on the "changing Korean-U.S. relationship" in a public gathering sponsored by the provincial government of South Chungchong Province at Taejon, the American envoy also implied that the U.S. forces would remain in South Korea until "progress" is made in reducing tensions with North Korea, saying "we share president No's view that it is not yet time to consider a reduction in the U.S. forces in Korea."

Lilley's speech drew keen attention particularly because it revealed U.S. positions with detailed explanations on some anti-American views held by some elements in Korea at a time when controversy has heated up over the alleged U.S. role in the 1980 bloody suppression of civil uprising in Kwangju.

Lilley, while touching on a "widespread misconception" that the U.S. bears responsibility for the use of Korean Armed Forces in Kwangju, said that the United States would cooperate with the South Korean National Assembly's efforts to probe to what extent the U.S. role was in Kwangju.

He observed that South Korea's political system is "maturing" as its economy advances toward status as an advanced industrial nation. Lilley said a political transition is now being demanded not only by students but also by the middle class which he described as being "the mainstream of society."

He said, "the Korean political transition...is giving the public a greater political voice than ever before, and the public is using that new freedom to question its relationship with the United States and other countries."

The American ambassador, however, contended that there have been "misconceptions" about the nature of the joint command relationship between the U.S. and Korean military. "Some Koreans," he explained, "even seem to believe that the U.S. military commander exercises total control over the Korean military forces. In fact

the command of the Korean forces, even those assigned to the Combined Forces Command (CFC), always remains with the Korean Government."

He further said "the 1978 CFC agreement provides that the Korean and American forces may each delegate operational control authority over certain of their forces to the CFC to meet specific missions that our two governments have given to the CFC...the Korean Government can and does decide on its own to remove units from CFC operational control."

He said the chairman of the Korean joint chiefs of staff normally notifies the commander of the CFC by letter when the Korean Government wishes to recover operational control of specific units. "The CFC agreement does not allow the CFC commander to reject the Korean Government's decision to remove Korean units from CFC operational control," he added.

He denied the view that the United States is to be blamed more than the Soviet Union or North Korea for the division in 1945 of the Korean peninsula after World War II. He insisted that the U.S. plans to create a unified government through peninsula-wide elections were foiled by the "Soviet Union's rapid consolidation of a communist party rule in the North after 1945."

He also rejected a view held by a "vocal minority" that the U.S. presence in Korea impedes reunification of the peninsula, saying, "in fact the role of the U.S. forces in Korea is not to prevent reunification, but to deter aggression."

Lilley said, "we maintain a military presence in South Korea today because your (Korean) government—and a majority of the public, according to the polls—believe this presence is still necessary to ensure the security of your country."

Premier Replacement in North Reported
SK1212085888 Seoul YONHAP in English
0842 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—North Korean Premier Yi Kun-mo was removed from his post in a meeting of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly on Monday, it was reported here.

Yi, who had been premier since Dec. 29, 1986, was succeeded by Yon Hyong-muk, a member of the North Korean Politburo of the ruling Workers' Party and secretary of the party's control [as received] committee, said the Naewoe press, quoting the Radio Pyongyang.

Yi, citing health reasons, also resigned from the Politburo, the highest governing council of North Korea, in the Fourth Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly held in Pyongyang on Monday. The meeting was reportedly called by North Korean President Kim Il-song.

The party's 15-member Standing Committee had requested an extraordinary meeting of the Assembly, prompting speculation that the party might have important decisions facing it, including a possible change in the country's diplomatic policy.

The broadcast, however, made no mention of what illness Yi suffers from or the condition of his health.

Meanwhile, Kim Il-song's second son, Kim Pyong-il, 34, was named ambassador to Bulgaria, according to Radio Pyongyang.

Kim Pyong-il was selected ambassador to Hungary in August but returned to Pyongyang in September protesting Hungary's agreement with South Korea to exchange permanent missions.

North Korea has reportedly been concerned due to its close allies' recent agreements with its archrival, South Korea, to exchange trade offices.

South Korea has agreed to exchange trade offices with five East European communist countries—Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union—since the Seoul Olympics, held from Sept. 17-Oct. 2.

Yon, the new premier, became a member of the ruling party's Central Committee in November 1970 and a member of the Politburo in December 1974.

Caution Urged in Exporting Goods to Communists

SK1212023688 Seoul YONHAP in English
0226 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korean companies should adopt internal control procedures that screen products and transactions for compliance with U.S. export control rules when they ship goods to communist countries, a U.S. trade expert warned Monday.

"It is extremely important for Korean companies to review their products and technology to determine whether there is any U.S. content or technical data," trade lawyer Christopher R. Wall said. "Any product manufactured in the United States will be subject to U.S. export controls."

Wall made the warning while explaining export controls and national security issues under the 1988 U.S. omnibus trade act in a seminar titled "The New Bush Administration and Its Trade Policy" held at the Federation of Korean Industries on Monday.

The U.S. omnibus trade law says that U.S. products and technology remain subject to U.S. controls even after they have been exported from the United States.

"Korean companies should work with U.S. advisers and export control authorities in devising controls that are appropriate to each company's particular area of technology," Wall said.

Korean firms should take a prudent attitude in transferring updated U.S. technologies, Wall said, adding, "the United States will, if necessary, act unilaterally to protect what it perceives to be its strategic interests with regard to technology transfers."

Four U.S. trade experts, including Wall and Paula Stern, former chairwoman of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), participated in the seminar on the U.S. trade law and export controls.

ROK Offers 'Humanitarian' Aid to USSR

SK1012074088 Seoul YONHAP in English
0736 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea has expressed its willingness to provide relief and restoration assistance to the Soviet Union in the wake of a recent powerful earthquake in northern Armenia, government spokesman Choe Pyong-yol said Saturday.

In a statement, Choe, concurrently culture and information minister, said the Korean Government extends its condolences to the Soviet people and government, stressing that it was shocked and saddened by the news of heavy casualties and damage caused by the earthquake.

"The Korean Government and people pray that Armenians restore the situation to normal as soon as possible through the rapid recovery of the injured and restoration of damaged property," he said. "Korea will provide human and material aid to the Soviet Union from a humanitarian point of view."

It marks the first time that South Korea, which has no diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union, has expressed its readiness to assist the relief efforts of a communist country from a humanitarian point of view.

Meanwhile, a government source said Seoul has informed Moscow via a third nation of its sorrow and willingness to supply relief goods, adding that the Korean National Red Cross will provide relief and restoration assistance via the international Red Cross if the Soviet Union accepts Korea's proposal.

Red Cross Head Sends Cable

SK1112024088 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Kim Sang-hyon, president of the Korean National Red Cross, has sent a cable to Dr. Dmitry Venedictov, chairman of the Alliance of Red Cross and Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union, conveying his deepest sympathies to the victims and bereaved families of the recent earthquake.

Kim said he was shocked to learn of the heavy casualties caused by the massive quake in Soviet Armenia.

Kim Tae-chung's Trip to Moscow Postponed
SK1012003688 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung's scheduled trip to Moscow this January was postponed to March-May next year.

The Party for Peace and Democracy said the delay was "due to unusually cold weather" in the Soviet Union.

Kim will visit the three major Soviet cities—Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent—but the itinerary is still flexible. The scheduled trip will be an "unofficial visit" at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Science.

Rep. Cho Se-hyong, who returned from Moscow Thursday, did not say if there were other reasons for the delay besides the cold weather.

Before Rep. Cho left for Moscow one week ago, PPD president Kim Tae-chung said he wants to visit Moscow in January although it may be subject to change depending on the negotiations.

Kim will stay in the Soviet Union for seven-to-ten days and Kim and PPD lawmakers will hold sub-group debates on politics, economy, trade and ethnic minority problems with the members of the Academy.

Cho said Kim will visit the Russian Orthodox Church, the Supreme Soviet and some media organizations. He said the Soviet Academy of Science will invite Kim and five PPD key post-holders but showed a "lukewarm attitude" on press accompaniment.

However, he said Kim's 20-man delegation will include lawmakers and journalists.

Choe Ho-chung To Stress 'Trade Diplomacy'
SK1112022288 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung said yesterday that the government would step up diplomatic efforts to improve relations with socialist countries.

Upon his arrival from Saudi Arabia where he served as ambassador, the newly-appointed minister said the successful staging of the Seoul Olympics has helped improve the status of Korea in the international community. "This will give Korea a positive momentum in its diplomatic efforts," Choe said.

Noting that there would be more trade frictions in the future, he will also give high priority to trade diplomacy.

The 59-year-old career diplomat said he had not been given prior notice of his appointment until the official announcement of the Cabinet line-up.

President No Tae-u will give him a letter of appointment tomorrow.

Editorial Denounces Student Poster on Hungary
SK1112120288 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
9 Dec 88 p 2

[Editorial: "In the Case of One Wall Poster"]

[Text] The contents of a wall poster which is said to have been put up at Seoul National University give us a clue to the ideological confusion, conflict, and wandering of some of our youths today. Although it is only one of the many wall posters that have been put up so far, the ideological confusion implied in its contents is very noteworthy.

The wall poster in question is said to contain criticism of Hungary, stating, "How can socialist Hungary take part in the two Koreas plot and establish its resident mission in the ROK?" Does this mean that the ideological position of this wall poster is far more leftist than those of Gorbachev's Soviet Union, Deng Xiaoping's China, and today's East European socialist states?

No doubt there are forces in the world which are more leftist than Gorbachev, Deng Xiaoping, and the East European countries. There are silly men who are still sympathetic with the Mao Zedong idea and the Gang of Four line during the Cultural Revolution. There is a position, like that of Fidel Castro, that abhors Gorbachev's perestroika. These forces oppose greater freedom, rationalization, and pragmatism, which are the mainstream of today's communist world, and stick to such doctrinaire ideas as "continuous revolution," "class struggle," "ideological superiority," "equality in poverty rather than material affluence," "closed self-reliance," "the party's and proletarian dictatorship," and "war of liberation."

It is generally acknowledged that the regime of North Korea's Kim Il-song is the world's worst doctrinaire group. Aloof from the international situation characterized by rapprochement and the constitutional softening of the Soviet Union, China, and East Europe, this group attempts to adhere by all means to the old North Korean edition of Stalinism under the signboard of the so-called chuche idea.

Needless to say, this position by the North clearly contradicts Marxism-Leninism which forms the mainstream of the communist camp today. Despite the fact that the suzerain states of Marxism-Leninism and the East European countries are inclined to gradually acknowledge today's ROK as an independent state that has been very successful by means of capitalism, the

so-called chuche idea group asserts that the ROK is still a colony and a semi-feudal society and that, therefore, it should be overthrown by revolution.

While the former is showing interest in an all-out exchange, opening of doors, and trade on the Korean peninsula, the latter, the chuche idea group, abhors it, worrying that it may lead to the failure of "revolutionizing South Korea" and to the shaking of its closed system.

However, no matter how hard North Korea's chuche idea group may kick and struggle, it will be overwhelmed by the general situation of the world, including the mainstream of the communist world, and the general trend of our people and will find itself more isolated and turned away from the world. What is anachronistic and excessively radical can never last long.

Then how can it be explained that the view which on the surface is similar to that of the anachronistic chuche idea group now appears on a wall poster at our campus?

We do not intend to make a hasty conclusion, in the McCarthyist manner, that the assertion in the wall poster is identical to that of the chuche idea group. However, we are really surprised at the obstinacy with which the wall poster failed to view socialist Hungary's normal treatment of the ROK as normal and viewed it more doctrinarily than the Soviet Union, China, and the East European countries. Reunification, national independence, the masses, progress—these are all sweet sounding. But we can hardly understand the rigid doctrinaire attitude of those who have not even caught up with the mainstream of Marxism-Leninism.

Reshuffle Aimed at Preparing for 'Interim Appraisal'
SK1112023088 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Interim Appraisal"]

[Text] The recent reshuffle of the Cabinet and the ruling Democratic Justice Party is considered to have the dual aim of riding out the current political crisis and preparing for the "Interim appraisal" of the No Tae-u government promised by the president. To this end, the ruling camp underscored the need for intra-party solidarity in order to control party politics as the largest political group in the country.

As time is running out fast, the No government has felt an increasing need to brace for the interim test of the government achievements as nine months have already passed since the inauguration of President No. In a stump speech in Seoul last year, government party candidate No appealed for voters' support, promising the audience that if he was elected, he would ask for an interim evaluation of his administration after the Olympics.

Undoubtedly, he made the pledge because his election was threatened by the growing popularity of rival candidates Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam. But his promise has become a heavy burden on his administration and he has been actually obsessed with the specter of failure because of the obligation to keep the promise. Frequently reminded of his promise, he has had to reaffirm it willingly or unwillingly.

If the government had strictly followed No's pledge, the interim assessment would have been carried out immediately after the Seoul Olympics, probably in October. It is easy to imagine No and his party attempting to pass the test at that time, riding the bandwagon provided by the successful staging of the world sports of festival.

Regrettably however, the buoyant post-Olympic mood which was expected to prevail upon the voters was short-lived with sensational revelations about Fifth Republic injustices, throwing the No government onto the horns of a dilemma. Under the circumstances, President No had no option but to defer the proposed test of his administrative performance. The ruling camp later indicated that the interim appraisal will be made in the first half of next year.

The ruling party's stratagem was without doubt based on the assumption that the festering controversy over the Chon Tu-hwan would be resolved within the year, thus allowing the present government to achieve something the voters would find agreeable. But now that the disputes over Chon's maladministration have become protracted, No's government and his party look petulant.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the first opposition Party for Peace and Democracy asserted yesterday that the interim appraisal should be conducted in February or March, next year. This is an expression of Kim's idea to advance the appraisal, while pegging it down as a fait accompli in the first half of next year. Nevertheless, there is the possibility that the government will delay further the appraisal depending upon the situation.

Another problem at issue is whether the interim vote of confidence has meaning. In a desperate appeal to the voters, No must have used the terminology, "a popular vote of confidence" without having any great conviction that it was necessary, only because his office was at stake.

Accordingly, the ruling camp has taken an equivocal attitude. Former DJP Chairman Yun Kil-chung insisted that the appraisal was irrelevant to the presidential office noting that the constitutional provision stipulating a five-year term shall not be violated.

The ruling party moved to interpret the promise as the popular evaluation of crucial questions presented by the government. At the same time, the DJP appears to plan a plebiscite instead of parliamentary vote in view of the opposition-dominated Assembly.

The second opposition group, the Reunification Democratic Party seems to share the same view as the PPD, whereas the third opposition group, the New Democratic Republican Party has sided with the ruling DJP. The conflicting views on the interim appraisal undeniably derive from self-centered interpretation of the rival parties.

Whatever the parties' partisan strategies may be, the president should translate his promise into action in line with the logic that the interim appraisal means a de facto confidence vote in him and his government. Should he fail, he should step down from office. This is not a wordplay embodiment of a sacred pledge.

Low-Level Reshuffle Likely 'This Week'
*SK1112032088 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 11 Dec 88 p 2*

[Text] A sweeping reshuffle in the low-echelon administration affecting vice ministers, governors and city mayors will most likely be made sometime later this week, a reliable government source said yesterday.

The breakup was originally planned over the weekend as a follow-up to the cabinet reshuffle, but has been put off till later this week because of the larger-than-expected scope of the line-up change.

The posts of vice minister of economic planning and deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, vacant since last week's cabinet reshuffle, will be filled to bring about a chain of vice ministerial post changes, the source said.

Popularity of Hearings 'Tapering Off'
*SK1112025788 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 2*

[("News in Review" by political editor Kim Myong-sik:
DJP Poised for Counter-Offensive"]

[Text] The popularity of Assembly hearings on past government misdeeds is tapering off and so is public attention on the life of the ex-president at the remote Paektam-sa Temple. The hard task of reorganizing the Cabinet and the party has been completed without too strong a repercussion, internally and externally.

The worst is over, it seems, for President No Tae-u and his colleagues who suffered greatly from the heat of the so-called "Assembly hearing syndrome." And new officers of the Democratic Justice Party are now talking about a counter-offensive.

President No reminded the new party officers and Cabinet members in a Chongwadae meeting yesterday that the Democratic Justice Party is "the ruling party under a presidential system and is the largest party in the National Assembly."

With speedy implementation of his Nov. 26 promises to the people, including release of political prisoners and early correction of the consequences of past mistakes, the tide can be turned in the government's favor, the Chief Executive reportedly stressed.

In what was described by party officers as a "staging ceremony" of troops on a vital mission, the president pointed out "three difficulties" facing the government.

They were first, the hasty expectation of the people to erase the bad legacies of the past, second, outburst of demands from diverse interest groups leading to confusion in law and order, and lastly, the opposition supremacy in the National Assembly.

In the hour and a half session, the president tried to plant confidence in the leaders of the ruling camp that these difficulties can be overcome and that they can lead the political situation through the "interim assessment" scheduled (by No himself in last year's campaign) for the early part of next year.

What was important about the president's instructions yesterday was not its contents, though. It was the effect of the general atmosphere which have the participants a determination that they would not let themselves be pushed around by the opposition any more.

Unfortunately for the opposition, especially the largest opposition PPD, the episode of a paratroopers' picture at the Assembly Kwangju panel hearing on Wednesday significantly helped cool off the public fervor in the televised inquiries.

Rep. Yi Hae-chan's denying his own responsibility in the blunder of wrongly describing proud paratroopers in a successful counter-infiltration operation on an island as the perpetrators of brutality in Kwangju rapidly eroded the sympathy of viewers of the young opposition lawmaker.

PPD President Kim Tae-chung's remarks in support of his protege, blaming the government and its intelligence outfits for having overlooked the publication of the wrong picture in the first place, was hardly convincing either.

The DJP's new spokesman, ex-Prosecutor Pak Hui-tae, proved his smarts by pointing out the "absurdity" in Kim Tae-chung calling for an end to official overseeing of publications for freedom of the press on one hand and blaming the authorities for having failed to do so on the other.

Kim believes that numerous complaint calls reaching PPD headquarters and Rep. Yi's chapter office were the work of a specially organized group serving the government party's interest. But callers to newspaper offices on the same subject did not seem to belong to such a group.

It was wise, therefore, for the government side to seize the chance to achieve its goal of putting an end to controversy over the Fifth Republic irregularities as early as possible and start anew with a fresh administration of the Sixth Republic, 10 months after its formal inauguration.

But whatever change happens in the political climate, and public sensitivity over episodes like that of Rep. Yi Hae-chan, will not alter the opposition's course, whose immediate strategy is to prolong the Fifth Republic controversies beyond 1988 till the potentially volatile spring of 1989.

In their persistent efforts to bring Chon Tu-hwan before the grilling tongues of assemblymen, the opposition members of the House special committee on Kwangju passed a resolution for the forceful escorting of Chon and another ex-President, Choe Kyu-ha, yesterday.

Assembly clerks will shortly visit Paektam-sa and personally hand a summons to the former president in domestic exile, who is certain to refuse to comply with it at the risk of a 5 million won fine.

As the majority opposition wants it, the parliamentary inquiries into the past will continue through the year-end festivities to the New Year but with markedly less television coverage, reflecting the decline in public concern.

Whether the government and its party will be able to lead the political scenes in the days ahead as the president called for will depend on what an appropriate subject of public concern it can offer in place of the hopefully declining debates over past evils and what steps for democracy it can take visibly and sincerely.

Chon Fails To Appear; Hearing Rescheduled
*SK1112031788 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 11 Dec 88 p 1*

[Text] The legislative committee investigating Fifth Republic irregularities canceled yesterday's hearing when ex-President Chon Tu-hwan failed to appear.

It was tentatively agreed to reconvene the hearing Dec. 22 or 23, but no agreement was reached on how Chon could be forced to appear. There is strong opposition from ruling party lawmakers to the issuance of a parliamentary writ.

A request for testimony was mailed to Chon Nov. 30 at a remote Buddhist temple on Mt. Sorak, a northeastern mountain area where he is in self-imposed exile.

Further on DJP, Cabinet Meeting, No Remarks
*SK1112021988 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 1*

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday called for a strict establishment of law and order, warning of stern punishment for officials who are lax and negligent in the performance of their duties.

Presiding over a joint meeting of the new Cabinet and Democratic Justice Party leaders at Chongwadae, No stressed that all Cabinet members should deal harshly with lawless acts threatening the liberal democratic system.

"Public office-holders who are lax in fulfilling national duties and fall short of their responsibility will face rigid disciplinary actions," he said.

The chief executive pointed to the slackening of public discipline in the name of democratization, which he said could be interpreted as a "consequence of a vacuum of state power."

No said that the urgent tasks facing the administration and the DJP is the realization of full democracy, establishment of law and order, implementation of resolute economic policies and achieving unity between the Cabinet and the party to take the lead in the current opposition-dominated political situation.

President No also ordered an early amnesty for political prisoners and their reinstatement, restoration of honor and redemption for victims in the 1980 Kwangju turmoil and the Samchong reeducation program as well as officials forcibly dismissed in 1980.

He called upon the administration and the DJP to positively revise "undemocratic" statutes and systems.

No emphatically said that the government should not slacken its control on real estate speculation and boldly improve various systems for expediting import liberalization as a way of positively responding to the rapidly changing international circumstances in trade.

As to ever-increasing labor disputes, No expressed his worry, saying, "If the government fails to manage the reckless demands of interest groups which are riding on the democratization mood, there is a possibility that the nation will collapse on the threshold of the rank of advanced nations like some Latin American countries."

No then urged the DJP to positively take the lead in operating the politics, saying, "Although the party will face many difficulties in the opposition-dominated political situation, it should not be dragged down by the opposition's irresponsible political offensive."

During the one-and-a-half-hour meeting, First State Minister for Political Affairs Chong Chong-taeck briefed the president that the government received as many as 704 additional reports of casualties and missing persons in the Kwangju incident between May 18 and June 30, this year.

He said the figure comprises 10 dead, 101 missing, 581 injured and 12 others. The government is working to grade the injuries to make adequate compensation to them.

Minister Chong went on that the government will grant an interest-free loan of 3 million won to each bereaved family of Kwangju victims and find jobs for 107 of them.

He added that his ministry has drafted a special law bill on the restoration of their honors and redemption and will send it to a joint deliberation between the government and the party tomorrow.

Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun reported that the official number of dead during the 1980 Samchong reeducation program is 54 and that there are no additional reports of victims.

He said that each family of the deceased will receive 34 million won for redemption and those injured will be given subsidies for their medical treatment and subsistence. However, he did not disclose the amount of money.

Justice Minister Ho Hyong-ku said that his ministry will take lenient measures for political prisoners within this month after collecting opposition parties' opinion.

He revealed that his ministry will pick competent prosecutors across the nation to thoroughly investigate irregularities of the Fifth Republic so as to clear people's doubts.

Home Minister Yi Han-tong reported that his ministry will concentrate all available power to stage a crack down on thieves, robbers and hooligans to secure social peace. He added that collective action with violence will be sternly dealt with.

Paper Views No's 'Hardline Stance'
*SK1112034588 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 11 Dec 88 pp 2, 3*

[“News analysis” by staff reporter Sim Yong-su: “No’s Tough New Stance Prompted by Violent Protests”]

[Text] In a major change in his political style, President No Tae-u yesterday served an unprecedentedly strong warning against “violent, revolutionary forces.”

Speaking at a meeting of his new cabinet and new DJP leadership, No showed he is willing to sacrifice his meticulously cultivated image as a “popular president” to restore social order.

His sudden adoption of a hardline stance was largely prompted by mounting concern among the middle-class, his key support base, that he has been too soft in handling lawbreakers.

There were complaints even among party members that No has cared for nothing but his image.

No's warning follows several incidents in which ruling party lawmakers' offices were fire-bombed or stoned in recent weeks by radical college students.

Some DJP officials close to No interpreted yesterday's warning as an ultimatum to the “violent, revolutionary forces,” meeting student activists and disidents.

No first signalled a full-scale campaign against antigovernment groups when he appointed leading hardliner Yi Han-tong as home minister in Monday's cabinet reshuffle.

At yesterday's meeting, Yi promised to mobilize all police forces to stamp out “unlawful collective actions,” presumably referring to street demonstrations and sieges of public offices.

Yi's promise was echoed by new Justice Minister Ho Hyong-ku, who told No he would “resolutely deal with” any group actions called democratic struggles.

No, pressing for swift, stern action against antigovernment groups, said democracy is in a crisis because of them.

No was quoted as saying, “If we retreat one step further, our democratic system will collapse.”

Raising his voice at one point, No told the meeting complaints are coming from the people, “Is there a government? Is there law in the country?”

Reaffirming his determination to fight against lawlessness, No warned that stern punishment awaits government officials who refuse to cooperate in his campaign to reestablish order.

No drew no response from the opposition parties, but he must have hurt their feelings.

Expressing displeasure at No's choice of hardlines for key cabinet posts Monday, opposition parties said No is trying to return the nation to the dark days of despotic rule.

Radical students and dissidents are a key powerbase of the opposition, which publicly denies any alliance with them to safeguard its image.

No took the hardline stance against the radical forces with the midterm appraisal expected next spring in mind, political observers said.

No must have decided that if he continues to go easy on radical groups, he might not estrange them but he would certainly lose the support of his key powerbase, the nation's middle class.

No came to power after winning last year's presidential election with just 37 percent of the vote thanks to onesided support from the middle class.

His warning was also directed at labor activists, who organized numerous strikes across the nation last year and this year demanding wage hikes.

Concerns have been prevalent among businessmen that if another wave of strikes hits the country, many of them will simply have to close down.

Many companies gave double-digit pay raises this year, the highest in decades.

No, citing some South American countries as an example, warned that if the government fails to properly handle disorderly demands from various sectors of society, the nation will have to drop from the race to join the ranks of the world's advanced countries.

"Once the economy collapses, popular support for the ruling party will go and political development will halt," No told the meeting.

No also warned that it is time for the ruling party to end its brief honeymoon with the opposition.

He told his party's leaders to no longer to be dragged here and there by the opposition parties.

"We should listen to the opposition only if they are logical and right. But if we continue to be dragged around by the opposition, the people will be disappointed and turn from us," No warned.

No's displeasure was focused on the ruling party's failure to block an opposition drive to dig into "problems of the past" concerning his old friend, disgraced ex-President Chon Tu-hwan.

No appealed to the nation to accept Chon's apology for his misdeeds during his rule in a nationally televised speech late November.

But the opposition, rejecting his plea, claimed that all allegations against Chon should be thoroughly investigated.

At the same time trying to appease the opposition and dissidents, No promised an early release of political detainees and amnesty and compensation for the victims of Chon's rule.

He also asked the cabinet and ruling party to speed up the work to abolish and rewrite antidemocratic laws and practices inherited from previous administrations.

Yet No's statement yesterday reflected his confidence in popular support for him and his government, political observers said.

Kim Tae-chung Blames Ministry for Wrong Picture
SK1012002688 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Dec 88 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Photo Fiasco"]

[Text] Kim Tae-chung Party for Peace and Democracy yesterday sought to protect Lawmaker Yi Hae-chan from a barrage of political attacks from the governing party, Defense Ministry and angry public, including veterans.

The PPD's Yi was under censure for having wrongly identified airborne soldiers grinning in front of the bodies of North Korean guerrillas in a photograph as paratroopers standing before the corpses of citizens they massacred in Kwangju in 1980.

Kim Tae-chung said the government party is politicizing the unintentional mistake while Yi has expressed regret over his blunder in the Assembly hearing Wednesday.

The ruling party seized the episode as a springboard to counterattack the opposition which has dominated Assembly hearing sessions by grilling witnesses from the governing party and the Fifth Republic.

He said Yi just took the photo from a Wolgan Chungang magazine photo feature on the Kwangju massacre. He said the primary responsibility for the mistaken identification of the photo should be borne by the magazine and the government, which did not question the wrong photo during the nine months since its publication.

Kim also expressed regret over the Defense Ministry's severe denunciation of Rep. Yi Hae-chan for an unscrupulous action that may damage the morale of the 600,000-member Armed Forces.

A group of reservist paratroopers occupied the lawmaker's office, asking for his apology and resignation from the Assembly. Kim Tae-chung's house and the PPD head office were showered with complaint calls but Kim said the telephone calls were the acts of a group seeking to put political pressure on the party.

Kim Yong-sam Favors Opposition-No Talks
*SK1112015588 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 11 Dec 88 p 2*

[Text] Kim Yong-sam said yesterday that he is not opposed to the proposed summit talks between President No Tae-u and the leaders of the three major opposition parties including himself.

"Such talks are conducive to solving various domestic political issues, although I have not yet received any request from Chongwadæ," said Kim, president of the Reunification Democratic Party.

He renewed his earlier demand for the release of political detainees, amnesty for them, restoration of their civil rights, reinstatement of dismissed public officials and other visible democratic reforms.

Kim, however, made it clear that these democratic steps are not a pre-condition for the proposed summit meeting between No and the three Kims.

Touching on the parliamentary ad hoc panel activities aimed at liquidating bad legacies of the Fifth Republic, Kim said that it is practically impossible to conclude the panel activities within this year as requested by the ruling DJP.

"The activities of the special parliamentary committees should continue till the irregularities of the Fifth Republic are cleared to the satisfaction of the people," Kim stressed.

Prosecutors Question Kim Hyon-hui Second Time
*SK1012012688 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 10 Dec 88 p 3*

[Text] Kim Hyon-hui, the North Korean saboteur of Korean Air Flight 858, prepared for more than three years with her male companion before blowing up the civilian airliner Nov. 29 last year, prosecutors said yesterday.

The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office, which interrogated Kim on Thursday for the second time in six days, quoted her as saying that she and her accomplice, Kim Song-il, traveled to Moscow, Vienna, Paris, Bangkok and Macao for on-the-spot training for the terrorist attack, which killed 115 people.

During their trips overseas, the pair, who posed as a Japanese father and daughter, always carried poison capsules in case they were caught.

Kim Song-il, 70, killed himself by swallowing poison when they were caught in Bahrain by airport authorities. Kim Hyon-hui was prevented from swallowing the poison.

Prosecutors said Kim told them she underwent spy education from April 1980, when she was studying Japanese at a Pyongyang college, to July 1984.

Kim lived with a Japanese woman, Yi Un-hye who she said had been kidnapped to North Korea, for more than 20 months from July 1981 to become japanized, speaking only Japanese and watching Japanese films and television programs.

Kim said she first met Kim Song-il in early July 1984 and they were told by north Korean Workers (Communist) Party officials to make overseas trips disguised as Japanese father and daughter.

Kim Song-il received training in handling explosives and she was taught to plant time bombs in radios. Kim said she was also told to take care of the health of her male companion.

Kim was quoted as saying that Kim Song-il had a gallstone removed in 1984 and underwent surgery to remove a lump in his stomach two months before the KAL disaster. He had trouble even walking shortly before the bombing.

Prosecutors said that Kim, 26, was very uneasy, unlike during the Dec. 2 interrogation, and she said in a tearful voice that she now deplores her ill fate to kill many people.

The interrogation was carried out in a "quiet" investigation room of the prosecution in Samchong-dong in central Seoul.

Daewoo To Dispose of 5 Subsidiaries
*SK1112072288 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 6*

[Text] Daewoo Chairman Kim U-chung announced yesterday that he would dispose of five subsidiaries of his group to rescue the debt-ridden Daewoo Shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery.

The five are Daewoo Investment & Finance, Korea Steel Chemical, Sorak Development, Shina Shipbuilding & Engineering and Pungkuk Oil. They are among the 28 subsidiaries of the Daewoo group.

Kim also said that Daewoo Shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery which is now suffering from some 850 billion won in deficits would be merged with Daewoo Engineering Products.

In his report to the National Assembly, the Daewoo chairman said that he would use 200 billion won to be acquired with the disposal of the five subsidiaries to bail out the debt-ridden shipbuilding company.

As well, he indicated that he would utilize an additional 100 billion won to be secured with the increase of paid-in capital by other subsidiaries such as Daewoo Electronics and Daewoo Heavy Industries.

However, he made it clear that he would not dispose of Daewoo Securities to rescue the ailing shipbuilding company.

He also suggested that the Korea Development Bank should invest an additional 300 billion in Daewoo Shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery.

In addition, he insisted that the government should take steps to stay the payment of interest on the remaining 250 billion won in debts.

The government is set to bail out the debt-stricken shipbuilding company on condition that the Daewoo group takes more responsibility for its rescue.

In particular, the government has been persuading the Daewoo group to dispose of Daewoo Securities along with other subsidiaries to normalize the operation of the ill-fated shipbuilding company.

In other words, the Daewoo group is being requested to pour in more of its own funds than those to be supplied by the government for the rescue of the shipbuilding company.

But the Korea Development Bank, the major creditor of Daewoo Shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery, is unable to invest more in the ailing shipbuilding company under the current law governing the operation of the bank.

Against this backdrop, a sub-committee of the National Assembly yesterday passed intact an amendment to the law forwarded by the government.

According to the amendment, the Korea Development Bank is authorized to increase its paid-in capital from the present 1,000 billion won to 1,500 billion won.

As a result, the bank will be able to lend a helping hand.

Initially, the Daewoo group said that it would pour in some 200 billion won to bail out the shipbuilding company while asking the government to cover up the remaining debts.

Even though the Daewoo group decided to increase its funds for the rescue of the shipbuilding company, it is generally expected that the government will ask the group to further increase its share.

New Construction Minister Interviewed on Policy
SK1112033388 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 6

[By staff reporter Kim Chae-il]

[Text] "Construction policies should be administrated to improve the quality of people's lives, paced with the democratization moves. In this context, the construction administration will be readjusted to meet the needs of the age," said Construction Minister Pak Sung.

In line with the direction, the ministry will push forward with housing, industrial planning, physical development and other overall construction-related policies, adapting its administration to the changing situation.

In an interview, Minister Pak said that the government will put the emphasis on the public interest and balanced distribution to endusers in the policy execution while leaving the private sector to private firms. "I will make maximum possible efforts to reflect the public opinion in the course of policy-making," he said.

Terming the housing construction, decentralization in metropolitan areas, western coastal development and eradication of the real estate speculation as the "economic color" of the Sixth Republic, Pak stressed the pivotal role of his ministry.

In particular, Minister Pak demonstrated a strong will to get tough with the speculation practices. "Anti-speculation measures should be directed toward heavier taxation on land possession rather than regulation," he said.

Commenting on the ministry's plan to build 2 million housing units by 1992, the new minister said, the policy will be focused on the construction of small-sized or rental houses. "To the end, my ministry will go allout to develop housing lots on the outskirts of big cities while seeking supportive measures concerning finance and tax benefits."

According to him, more than 300,000 units will be constructed this year. Supposing some 400,000 units are built every year over the next four years, predictions for the construction of 2 million units are "optimistic."

For housing construction, he went on, private capital and technology will be invited to participate. Housing policy, however, will be implemented to bring development profits without real estate speculation.

Pak served as the senior presidential secretary for economic affairs for the nine months prior to his appointment.

Emphasizing balanced physical development, he said the Construction Ministry will push forward more vigorously with full-fledged development along the western coast to allow the presidential election pledges of the ruling camp to be kept.

Taking into full consideration the plan worked out by the Western Coast Development Promotion Committee, the ministry will decide on priorities and construction periods in connection with the projected road, industrial complex and supporting facilities construction, he said.

"In view of finance and development efficiency, the road construction will be the first priority in the western coast development," he added.

As for development-retarded areas, the ministry's area-by-area plans will be enforced on a gradual basis, according to the minister.

Turning to the improvement of the quality of life, Pak said that roads in rural areas should be expanded and paved to enhance the accessibility to urban areas, followed by improvement and new installment of waterworks.

Presenting the basic directions for real estate policy, Minister Pak said, "I will make every possible effort to put the lid on speculation practices while minimizing the side effects arising from the excessive land transaction regulation," he said.

Minister Pak was of the view that the people's opinions collected through public hearings will steer policy-making as land policy is closely connected to lives of all the people of the nation.

As a native of Kimje, Chollapukto, Pak graduated from Seoul National University with a major in economics. He obtained his doctorate from State University of New York in 1974.

From 1961 to 1976, Pak worked for the Bank of Korea. He taught at Choongang University from 1976 through February, 1988, when he was brought into No Tae-u's administration. He once served as an editorial writer for the SEOUL SHINMUN.

New Education Minister Outlines Tasks
SK1112025888 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
11 Dec 88 p 3

[“Figure in Focus” column: “Primary Effort Will Be Put on Restoring Campus Order”]

[Text] The prime emphasis of education administration will be placed on restoring order in the campus, said new Education Minister Chong Won-sik.

"I understand the on-going turmoil as the throes of a transitional era. Ministry will carry on policies that will bring it back to where it should be," said the 60-year-old professor-turned chief education official in a meeting with the press.

"Peace in the campus can be achieved only through a democratic process, and this will not come in a day. And the ability of self-governing is required no less now than at any other time in the past," he said.

He continued that his ministry would spare no effort to help universities and colleges manage campus problems in a democratic manner, refusing to remain an idle spectator.

With a pile of pending issues to tackle, the new minister said, "Equally important is to regain the authority of teachers. With determination, the ministry will do its utmost to help shore up the authority of teachers."

"Education, basically, is future-oriented, which requires changes and innovations. But education itself should not be separated from the past or tradition, but harmonize them."

He pinpointed human resources as the key element in the success of education rather than financial or institutional back-ups. Thus, he personally opposes the guaranteeing of labor rights to teachers, he stated.

Chong is a graduate of the department of pedagogy of Seoul National University College of Education. He taught at his alma mater for most of his life except for several years of study at the Peabody Teachers' College of Education in Pittsburgh, the United States.

He was a secretary to the late Education Minister O Chon-sok briefly in 1960.

The new minister of education termed the polarization of opinions over pending issues as a dreadful phenomenon, including rewriting of education-related laws, term of principals, a backlog of teacher hopefuls on the waiting list and, collegians' uniform boycotting of tuition fee increases.

"Efforts to find points where conflicting parties hold common views should be made to settle these situations," he said with caution.

A man of strong drive, Chong was a member of various advisory committees on education and wrote books on education and a bestselling one on human relations.

Burma

Information Committee Holds 16th News Conference
*BK0912145788 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] held its 16th news conference today at 1300 in the reception hall of the Ministry of Defense and met with local and foreign correspondents.

At the news conference Major General Chit Swe, minister of cooperatives, livestock breeding, fisheries, agriculture and forests, and Colonel Abel, minister of trade, explained matters related to trade and cooperatives; two students who returned to Rangoon after they reported to the Burmese Embassy in Thailand after reporting to Thai police after they were sold [yaung sar khan ya] recounted their experience in Thailand; and the Information Committee of the SLORC reported on the situation regarding returning students. [passage omitted]

At the news conference the two students who returned to Rangoon on 6 December through the courtesy of the Burmese Embassy after they were sold in Thailand recounted their experience and answered questions from journalists. [passage omitted]

Next, the Information Committee of the SLORC explained the situation on the returning students. They said it had already been reported that as of 1 December, 1,453 students had returned and that 63 had returned between 2 and 8 December, making a total of 1,521 persons who had returned as of yesterday. They said in endeavoring to bring back the students through diplomatic measures, the first secretary of the SLORC on 30 October instructed the Burmese ambassador to Thailand to coordinate with Thai Government authorities, and the director general of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with the Thai ambassador to Burma on 30 October and discussed opening a camp for students as had been reported at the 25 November news conference.

The two students are the first to return under this program. If there are many returning students arrangements have been made to send a special plane. Those students who are finding it difficult to reach the reception centers can do the same as these two students. It is believed that the Thai authorities will step up cooperation.

They added that it is necessary for students to know that the government is taking measures according to its declared stand. They hope that the students and their parents now understand the government's good will and policy.

Maj Gen Chit Swe, minister of cooperatives, livestock breeding, fisheries, agriculture and forests and Col Abel, minister of trade attended the news conference and answered questions on border trade and cooperatives.

Answering a question, Col Abel said the Chinese-Burmese border trade started last October and that the border trade was being carried out by private, cooperative, and public sectors at three points at Namhkam, Mu-se, and Kyu-hkok. [passage omitted]

He said as the border trade is now legal, there is no longer smuggling and that the legal trade is in full swing. He said the Burmese side sold to China cotton, duck feathers, chicken feed, dried fish and shrimps, betel nuts, plum cakes, fish skin and stomach, beans, dried chili, bean cake, preserved bean, and lime [calcium oxide]. The Chinese side sold the Burmese side toothpaste, flasks, bicycles, detergent powder, pencils, infant milk powder, house paints, and dishes. He said the bilateral trade situation is fair and that trade offices have been opened at Lashio, Mu-se, and Kyu-hkok to facilitate border trade. He said once the tax is paid at the border, the goods could be freely transported to destined places and that there are no problems so far. He added that although there have been a few cases of threats from insurgents the cars are freely moving under good security and that about 100 cars travel between Lashio to Mu-se daily. He said Lashio and Mu-se are bustling with trade and commerce activities. [passage omitted]

He said border trade with Bangladesh is being negotiated and that Thailand is also interested in conducting border trade. He said Bangladesh is interested in buying from Burma lime, cement, forest products, fish, shrimps, and rice while Burma wants to buy from them pipelines, wires, and detergent powder and that consultations had been held to improve shipping services between the two countries.

He said the foreign countries are especially interested in foreign investment and contacts and inquiries are being made.

Next, Maj Gen Chit Swe, in his capacity as the cooperatives minister, answered the questions from the journalists. He said the new Cooperative Law deletes from the old law the phrase "based on the socialist economy" and sections related to a socialist economic system. He said it amounts to paving the way for cooperatives to compete within the private sector. [passage omitted]

He said the Central Cooperative Council was previously formed with 24 members, but these members have been removed and the council has been formed with 7 members and that the township-level councils will have 3 to 5 persons. He said cooperative societies are being formed with those whom the people trust and who have the cooperative spirit and those who have no political party affiliation. [passage omitted] He said measures are being taken to conduct border trade at Kawthaung and that it

will be started with the fishing industry involving 70 fishing trawlers. He said there had been no law on coastal fishing and private sector fishing rights and because of this lack of law, fish was smuggled out. Hence, it will be necessary to formulate a legal framework. He said at present, 19 foreign companies have inquired about fishing rights.

The news conference ended at 1500.

National Democracy League Elects New Chairman
BK1112004688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1742 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Dec 10 (AFP)—The National League for Democracy (NLFD) Saturday [10 December] elected a new chairman here following the ouster of its former chief in a power struggle over the issue of communist participation in the party leadership.

A statement by the NLFD, the strongest opposition party, said that former General Tin U had been elected chairman "with unanimous agreement" by the party's Central Executive Council.

The election of Mr. Tin U took place one week after Aung Gyi was dismissed as NLFD's chairman when the council passed a majority vote rejecting his demand that eight alleged "communist or pro-communist elements" be expelled from the council.

Mr. Tin U, a former defence minister in the regime of General Ne Win, was once considered his possible successor. [passage omitted]

The NLFD, with an estimated membership of 700,000, is the most powerful amongst some 160 parties that have emerged in Burma, and it remains unclear how many will leave following Mr. Aung Gyi's ouster.

More Political Parties Announce Objectives

Evergreen Young Men Association
BK1012093588 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Dec 88

[“Press Release No 138/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 9 December—the 1st day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Evergreen Young Men, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at Myobat Road, South Monywa Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division.

2. Aims

- A. To hold free and fair democratic multiparty general elections.
- B. To ensure full enjoyment of basic human rights contained in the UN Declaration on Human Rights.
- C. To unite the forces of youths to build a new democratic state which is united, peaceful, modern, and developed.
- D. To prevent emergence of any form of dictatorial systems in Burma.
- E. To conduct friendly relations with international youths and to build and safeguard world peace.

3. Programs

- A. To join hands with all youth organizations to build a united youth force.
- B. To coordinate with all political parties to build a democratic front composed of genuine democratic forces.
- C. This organization has no aim of achieving power; this organization shall give active support to any organization it believes to be a genuine democratic force.
- D. The organization shall resolutely oppose any organization it once supported if the organization is found to be impeding or endangering the cause of democracy.
- E. To work jointly with all genuine democratic forces for the holding of free and fair multiparty democratic general elections.
- F. To draw up and implement programs according to prevailing circumstances.

Rule of People's Democracy League
BK1012114688 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Dec 88

[“Press Release No 137/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 9 December—the 1st day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Rule of People's Democracy League, which has registered with the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 3, south room, ground floor, Manee Building, 34th Street, Kyauktada Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims:

- A. To establish internal peace most urgently.
- B. To upgrade and form a solidified defense force.
- C. To work for health, strength, and physical development.
- D. To upgrade scientific and technological development to the world standard.
- E. To support and cultivate technicians and intellectuals.
- F. To draw up and implement new economic policies and planning for the rehabilitation of Burma.
- G. To scrutinize and accept foreign investments and aid in the interest of the country.

H. To systematically work for the uplift of moral conduct by forming a ministry as an urgent measure.

I. To work for nonalignment, peaceful coexistence, and mutual friendship and cooperation in international relations.

3. programs:

A. To promote an all-around education by balancing arts and science subjects, without giving extreme emphasis on one to the detriment of the other.

B. To employ and increasingly utilize mechanized farming depending upon circumstances. Land reclamation will be encouraged. Laws will be promulgated for rights to work on farms and in orchards, transfer and inherit these farms and orchards, and freely trade the produce.

C. To allow foreign investments in accordance with the country's needs.

D. To work for the transformation of the country into a modernized state of world standard by employing short-term and long-term planning.

E. Since an individual citizen's ability and morality are key to the success of the country's development, propagation in these fields will be striven for without fail.

F. To preserve and work for the culture, customs, and traditions of Burmese nationalities.

G. To cooperate with the United Nations organization and its agencies for disarmament, opposition to nuclear armament, and economic and cultural development without prejudicing the country's interests.

E. For the peasants in the Union to support as well as participate in the efforts to further world peace and in the efforts to strengthen cooperation among world peoples.

3. Programs

A. For the peasants to operate as a strong mass organization to ensure democratic rights always remain prevalent at home.

B. To permit unrestricted cultivation, production, transportation storage, and milling of crops, and to permit free sale of crops produced through the efforts of the peasants after coordinating the prices in accordance with their wish.

C. To systematically draft and implement a new agrarian system that eradicates feudal-landlordism once and for all and distributes farmland by granting land ownership to the tillers.

D. To work with plans and transform private farming into cooperative farming in accordance with the wishes and interests of the peasants.

E. To educate and motivate peasants by setting up agricultural research institutes, exhibition halls, pilot cultivation plots, model cooperative farms, modern agriculture institutes, agricultural high schools, and research departments.

F. To boost the standard of the country's agriculture by establishing relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit with world peasants organizations, advanced world agriculture institutions, and agricultural nations.

G. In establishing a life for the future, the peasants shall always engage in the tasks aimed at establishing unity with the working class which shares the same interests and life with the peasantry.

H. The peasants, who utterly detest the consequences of war, shall always work toward opposing world war by cooperating with antiwar forces.

I. While working with all other peasants organizations in the Union of Burma on matters of common interest, efforts will be made toward the establishment of a single peasants organization.

League of Peasants Union

*BK121114488 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[“Press Release No 141/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 11 December—the 3d day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the League of Peasants Union, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 5, (U Gwe) Street, Sanchaung Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

A. To work for the growth of democracy that would firmly guarantee the rights of workers and peasants in the Union of Burma.

B. To eliminate feudal-landlordism once and for all and to allow landownership only to the peasants who till the land.

C. To wage an industrial revolution based on modern agricultural methods.

D. For the peasants in the Union to be friendly with their counterparts in the world and for them to cooperate in the modernization efforts.

Union Democratic Congress

*BK1112085188 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[“Press Release No 139/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 10 December—the 2d day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Union Democratic Congress, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 141, 2d floor, Anawratha Street, Kyauktada Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

A. To strengthen and perpetuate the sovereignty of the country.

- B. To ensure that there is absolute equality among the people regardless of race, religion, and sex, and to strengthen the unity.
- C. To practice a multiparty democratic system in accordance with the actual wish of the majority of the people and to build a prosperous nation that fully guarantees human rights.
- D. To preserve and promote the civil and lofty religion, tradition, and culture of the Burmese people which is already well known in the world.
- E. To implement the other objectives that a conference of this Congress decides on from time to time.

3. Programs

- A. To make preparations aimed at strengthening the defense capability and at perpetuating the nation.
- B. To practice an active and independent foreign policy.
- C. To work toward ensuring that no privileged persons exist and through such an effort to ensure all the people, regardless of race, religion, or class equally enjoy their inherent basic rights.
- D. To study the economic policies of developed nations and to implement as necessary a modern and progressive economic system.
- E. For the sake of the country, to consult, reach agreement, and cooperate as necessary with other political organizations that share common objectives.

League for Mother Democracy

BK1112082188 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Dec 88

[“Press Release No 140/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 10 December—the 2d day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the League for Mother Democracy, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has moved its headquarters to No 707, Weziyant Street, 1st Migyaungkan Ward, Thingangyun Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

- A. To work for the strengthening and perpetuation of the independence and sovereignty of the Union of Burma.
- B. To strive to the utmost for the attainment of genuine democracy in Burma.
- C. To work for peace at home and peace in the world.
- D. To strive to the utmost for unity among all national groups.
- E. To work with the aim of making the citizens, regardless of who she/he may be, fully enjoy basic human rights.
- F. To succeed in all tasks in line with the principle that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

3. Programs

- A. Efforts will be made to raise the standard of living of all the national groups.
- B. To work toward transforming Burma, an agricultural country, into a nation with developed industries.
- C. To ensure all Burmese citizens, regardless of race or religion, enjoy freedom of worship and freedom to speak, write, and discuss their own opinions.
- D. To study the economic policies and programs of developed nations and to adapt those suitable to Burma.
- E. We, being mothers, shall practice just democratic rights to ensure our children succeed in their pursuance of education.
- F. Should any members from other regions contact us, we shall form branch groups and ensure that they enjoy equal rights.
- G. Membership in our party shall be expanded by members, each of whom shall visit homes and recruit not more than five members. Lists of members if presented at the headquarters shall be accepted.

‘Heavy Fighting’ With Karen Forces Reported

BK1112080088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 11 (AFP)—Heavy heavy fighting has broken out between Burmese Government troops and ethnic rebels in Karen State in eastern Burma near the border with Thailand, a Karen source said Sunday.

Some 2,000 Burmese troops have set up positions in a zig-zag battle line seven to eight kilometers from the rebel-held village of Mae Thaw Waw near the Burmese-Thai border, said the source reached by telephone near Mae Sot on the Thai side of the border.

Burmese troops were daily pounding positions of the rebel Karen National Union (KNU) with 120-mm mortars and 105-mm artillery, but there were only sporadic clashes at close quarters as both sides were keeping to their own defence lines.

The KNU contingent had been reinforced by the Wa National Army (WNA) and Karen rebels, he said. All three groups are members of the National Democratic Front (NDF), an umbrella organization of some nine ethnic rebel forces fighting against the Rangoon government.

The source declined to give the total rebel strength.

The Burmese Air Force had not been used against Karen positions since it was used in a bombardment of Mae Thaw Waw during a month-long battle in September-October when the village fell to the KNU, the source said.

The planes were now being used against Kachin Independence Army (KIA) rebels at a village near Myitkyina City in Burma’s Kachin State, 600 kilometres north of Rangoon, he said, adding that a KIA attack on two Burmese Army outposts in the area last week had left four Burmese troops dead and 11 wounded.

Kachin Insurgents Launch Surprise Attack
*BK1012142588 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[Text] Some 300 KIA [Kachin Independence Army] insurgents from a group of insurgents which had retreated after attacking Mohnyin on 27 November launched a surprise attack on a camp of two units from the 37th Infantry Regiment in charge of security in Sinbo village in Myitkyina Township and a People's Police Force station from the west and south at 0400 on 7 December.

Using heavy weapons, the insurgents launched fierce attacks on the military camp and police station and overran the people's police force station at 0530. However, due to stiff resistance from our forces they were unable to penetrate the camp. The insurgents retreated in the evening after air support was given from the Air Force.

One member of the Defense Forces gave up his life for the country and three were wounded. Three members of the police force, including a station officer, laid down their lives for the country and eight were wounded and the police lost 15 small arms.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore
Malaysia

Human Rights Watchdog Organization Launched
*BK1012072088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT
10 Dec 88*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 10 (AFP)—Lawyers and social activists Saturday [10 December] launched an organisation to promote human rights, claiming the Malaysian Government was abusing laws for preventive detention to jail political opponents and critics.

Raja Aziz Addruse, president of the bar council which represents some 3,000 lawyers in private practice, said the organisation would group nongovernmental bodies promoting respect for basic human rights.

Fifteen prominent Malaysians, among them two former prime ministers, Tunku Abdul Rahman and Hussein Onn, signed a declaration after a two-day seminar, saying the organisation would defend, promote and preserve human rights.

Mr. Aziz said it was important to educate Malaysians on the nature of human rights although "the government might not be easily persuaded to do away with laws allowing preventive detention."

Parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang and four MPs from his Democratic Action Party (DAP), Moslem ethnic Malay fundamentalists and ethnic Chinese educationists are among those now in detention.

They are being held under the Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows for indefinite detention without trial.

Mr. Rahman, 85, Friday accused Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed of using the ISA as an "offensive weapon" against opposition. He said the ISA was intended for use against communist terrorists, not citizens or government critics.

Deputy Premier Ghafar Baba, responding to the criticisms, said Friday the ISA would not be repealed as long as there were people out to exploit racial dissatisfaction.

The government remained committed to the democratic way of life in which Malaysians would be able to amass wealth and enjoy greater freedom of the press, the NEW STRAITS TIMES newspaper quoted Mr. Ghafar as saying.

Dr. Mahathir's seven-year-old government has accused Mr. Lim and others of exploiting racial issues, triggering fear of ethnic clashes similar to those in May 1969 when hundreds died.

Weak Currency Fuels 'Rapid' Economic Growth
*BK1112034288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0251 GMT
11 Dec 88*

[By Mervin Nambiar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 11 (AFP)—Malaysia's economy enjoyed rapid growth in 1988 as exports surged on the back of a weak currency, economists said.

"The weak ringgit is a major factor in the strong recovery but there is also good demand for primary commodities," said Mohamed Ayub, a senior executive at Bank Buroh.

The independent Malaysian Institute for Economic Research (MIER) said in a report this month that it expects Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 8.2 percent this year against an earlier government estimate of 7.4 percent.

Some economists say, however, that the recovery has a fragile base.

They say prepayments of loans which have cut the national debt by 2.8 billion Malaysian dollars (one billion U.S.) and low domestic interest rates have kept the ringgit artificially low.

"Nobody is sure what the central bank policy is, but a sharp appreciation could severely hit manufactured exports and undercut recovery," a local fund manager said.

Government officials say strong fundamentals have underscored Malaysia's economic turnaround since 1985, when its GDP contracted by one percent.

Officials at the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) said investment approvals surged 200 percent from a year earlier to 6.6 billion Malaysian dollars (2.5 billion U.S.) in the first eight months to August.

"Even if 80 percent of these projects finally take off, the investments will be sizable," MIDA chief Zainal Sulong said recently.

Officials said that a downturn in the U.S. and European economies next year could affect Malaysia's performance in the second half because demand for textiles, electronics, rubber and other commodities would decline.

"But there should be sufficient momentum to carry us through the new year, so the outlook is certainly not bleak," Mr. Mohamed said.

Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin has projected a GDP growth rate of 6.5 percent next year with much of the expansion centered again on manufacturing.

Analysts say that private-sector confidence in the economy remains strong despite political uncertainty generated by infighting among Malaysia's ethnic Malay elite.

The MIER said a recent consumer survey showed growing confidence in the strength of Malaysia's recovery.

But analysts say the longer-term outlook will depend on whether current prices for major commodity exports such as rubber, palm oil and timber hold.

Malaysia's treasury is also banking on any revenue shortfalls being covered by higher crude oil production, projected to reach a new high of 562,600 barrels a day next year.

The government expects crude oil to fetch an average of 14 U.S. dollars a barrel next year, a government report said.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Sends Message to UN on Khmer Rouge
BK1012061488 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1112 GMT 9 Dec 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK, December 9—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, has sent a message to H.E. [His Excellency] Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations, on the 40th anniversary of the international convention for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

The message reads:

"On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the international convention for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, we have the honor to inform you that the Kampuchean people are going to celebrate Kampuchea's 10th anniversary of liberation from the genocidal regime of Khmer Rouge's Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan whose genocidal policy has been strongly condemned in the world.

"The PRK Government and people highly appreciate the international genocide convention promulgated at the end of the World War Two. A big number of states have adhered to the convention and remnants of the Nazi war criminals have been tracked down so far. On this issue, the Kampuchean people would like to raise the following questions:

—Why couldn't a similar crime of genocide committed in a nearly-four-year period even in a larger scale and more brutal than that of the Nazi be promptly be prevented by a civilized world?

—Why have the genocidal Khmer Rouge criminals, since Kampuchea's liberation in 1979, been still harboured in a neighbouring country of Kampuchea and received military support from some governments to oppose the Kampuchean people?

—Why the government of a neighbouring country and some other governments been obstinately opposed to the entire population of Kampuchea, victims of the Khmer Rouge's genocide?

—Why haven't the criminals of the genocidal Khmer Rouge been tracked down and punished like the Nazi criminals after having committed similar holocaust?

—Why does the United Nations organisation continue to accept the representatives of the Khmer Rouge to hoist their flag at the U.N. office, thus allowing them to represent their victims, the Kampuchean people, at this international organisation?

—Why does the U.N. accept the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea", which is in fact a disguised organization of Khmer Rouges, to pass themselves off as "freedom fighters"?

In the meantime, it is Sihanouk himself who has recognized that such a tripartite coalition is being disintegrated since his claim for resignation from its presidency.

—Why daren't the "sponsors" of the U.N.'s latest resolution on Kampuchea—the erroneous and groundless one—mention by name of notorious leaders of the criminal Khmer Rouge regime such as Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan?

- Why wouldn't Kampuchea's seat at the U.N. be left vacant notwithstanding the strong protests from many countries which have favoured such a stance?
- Why have some developed countries turned a blind eye to the Khmer Rouge's existence and sought to oppose innocent Kampucheans who have survived the genocide?
- What feeling would be aroused by marking the signing of the genocide convention while the genocidal Khmer Rouge junta is honoured at the U.N. and it is supported by U.N. members to usurp power again in Kampuchea?
- Why do the Kampuchean people fail to benefit from such an international law. Doesn't it work only with the cause of the Khmer Rouge?
- Why do they insist on reimposing the Khmer Rouge's rule on the country while it can never be accepted by the Kampuchean people?

"(It is) a crime not to let the Kampuchean people have the right to self-determination in the case that with their own heroic struggle and with the assistance of Vietnamese Army volunteers they have overthrown the Pol Pot regime to liberate themselves from genocide.

For years now, your excellency, the Kampuchean people are striving to rebuild their war-torn country and recorded considerable achievements in their national defence and construction thanks to their own efforts and to the warm support and assistance from fraternal and friendly countries, international humanitarian organisations, despite numerous difficulties. With steady development in Kampuchea over the past years, the P.R.K. and Vietnam have effected seventh annual partial withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Kampuchea and the pull-out of the Vietnamese troops will be made not later than 1990 as scheduled.

"In a bid to reach an early political solution to the Kampuchean problem and to put an early end to the suffering of the Kampuchean people we have put forth a policy of national reconciliation and engaged in peace talks with the opposition parties including the three rounds of talks between Hun Sen and Sihanouk, the Jakarta informal meeting (JIM) and the tripartite summit between Hun Sen, Sihanouk and Son Sann in Paris. Only one thing on which we insist, based on the respect for the legitimate right of the Kampuchean people to self-determination, is the right to live in peace and good neighbourhood with their neighbours and to live in peace and good neighbourhhod with their themselves [as received] without the threat of returning to power by the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime. Without support and assistance from a number of government and outside forces, the Khmer Rouge cannot come back to power in Kampuchea.

We think that only when the Khmer Rouge genocidal criminals is brought to trial can the international community prevent them from a comeback in Kampuchea. The Kampuchean people have no other choice than to continue their struggle for survival without the Khmer Rouge and never lay down their arms to let the genocidal Khmer Rouge backed by some outside forces return to power.

"We hope that the international community would [act] in our favour.

"Will be grateful to your excellency if you circulate this text as an official document at the current session.

"Please, your excellency, accept with the assurance of my highest consideration."

Day of Mourning Set for USSR Earthquake Victims
*BK1212022888 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[“Special announcement” on earthquake in USSR’s (Khokah) region—dated 11 December]

[Text] The KPRP Central Committee, National Assembly, Council of State, Council of Ministers, and KUFNCD National Council, with great sorrow wish to inform party members, cadres, male and female combatants, and our people throughout the country that on 7 December 1988 there was a natural disaster—a tremendous earthquake—in (Khokah) region of the USSR which has caused uncountable losses of lives and property.

Concerning this sorrowful event, the KPRP Central Committee, National Assembly, Council of State, Council of Ministers, and KUFNCD National Council would like to join in mourning with the party, state, and fraternal people of the Soviet Union, and have decided:

1. To observe a nationwide mourning on 12 December 1988.

On this day of mourning, the institutions of the party, state, and mass organizations at all levels must fly the national flag at half mast and suspend all public entertainments.

2. In the central region, a delegation of party, state, and mass organizations must be set up and sent to the USSR embassy to take part in the ceremony paying homage to the souls of the Soviet people who died because of this disaster.

3. Each locality where Soviet experts are working must send its respective delegation to join with the Soviet side in observing this day of mourning.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 11 December 1988

Khieu Samphan Departs for Sihanouk Talks
*BK1212090888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT
12 Dec 88*

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 12 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan was due to leave here Monday for Paris for a meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, informed sources said here.

The Khmer Rouge has indicated recently that it would join the other two resistance groups in the French capital for talks scheduled to take place over the next few days between the Cambodian resistance and the Phnom Penh government installed by Hanoi in early 1979.

It would be the first time that the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, who form the military backbone of the tripartite resistance coalition, had taken part in talks between the U.N.-recognised resistance and the Phnom Penh government.

The talks will take the form of a working group whose first meeting will take place on December 21.

The resistance coalition, comprising the Khmer Rouge, followers of former Cambodian monarch Prince Sihanouk and nationalists led by Son Sann are fighting an estimated 90,000 to 120,000 Vietnamese troops stationed in Cambodia since Hanoi intervened in late 1978 to topple a Khmer Rouge government.

Sources said Mr. Khieu Samphan's visit to France will last until Saturday [17 December].

This is the first visit to France by a high-ranking Khmer Rouge leader since 1975 when the Khmer Rouge came to power in Cambodia.

They are held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians before being toppled by Hanoi in January 1979.

VODK Alleges Disguised Vietnamese Soldiers
BK1012025188 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 9 Dec 88

[“News commentary”: “Why Do the Hanoi Vietnamese Aggressors Strictly Order Vietnamese Soldiers Wearing Cambodian Soldiers’ Uniforms To Speak Cambodian?”]

[Text] According to reports from various battlefields throughout the country, it is clear that the Hanoi Vietnamese have strictly ordered Vietnamese aggressor soldiers who wear Cambodian soldiers’ uniforms and who are deployed in Cambodia to speak only Cambodian. Every position, both those of disguised Vietnamese soldiers and the ones set up as grouping units [angkaphheap pramol phdom], fly the puppet flag. Reports from many sources also confirm that each position displays the banner of the CPV, Ho Chi Minh’s photo, and the

slogan saying that Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia will be united for thousands of years. However, the puppet flag is flown outside each position.

This is a new maneuver, among many others, of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors that is aimed at:

1. Using these soldiers to oversee and lead the battle.
2. Making them fluent in Cambodian and gradually assimilating them as Cambodians.
3. Using them in the puppet army or in the puppet regime.
4. Gradually assimilating the soldiers wearing the puppet uniform so that at election time they can vote the puppets into power under the control of the Hanoi Vietnamese.
5. Annexing Cambodia forever.

However, despite these perfidious and deceitful maneuvers, the Vietnamese certainly cannot achieve their dark and dirty goal. On the contrary, the Vietnamese enemies have been successively and strongly attacked by the Cambodian people and the DK National Army. The Vietnamese are completely bogged down on the battlefield in Cambodia.

VODK Denounces Vietnamization Policy
BK1012084988 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Station commentary: “The Hanoi Vietnamese Enemy is Busily Implementing a Vietnamization Policy in Cambodia To Prepare for a Permanent Occupation of the Country”]

[Text] The Vietnamese enemy aggressors are currently carrying out deceitful propaganda to dupe world opinion on a political solution to the Cambodian problem and on Vietnam withdrawing such and such a number of its troops from Cambodia in this or that year, and on a complete withdrawal in 1990, and so on. However, while they are shouting about all this, on the Cambodian battlefield the Vietnamese have on the one hand constantly brought fresh troops from Vietnam to Cambodia, particularly to the battlefields in western Cambodia, to replace and reinforce their forces and oppose our National Army’s attacks. On the other hand, the Vietnamese are striving to systematically implement a Vietnamization policy in Cambodia aimed at annexing the whole of Cambodia forever. The Vietnamese implement this policy through various forms.

1. Increasing numbers of Vietnamese nationals have been brought into Cambodia to settle permanently. At present, there are over 1 million of them. This activity is in flagrant violation of Article 49 of the 12 June 1949 Geneva Agreement which says foreign forces have no right to send their nationals to settle in the land they are aggressively occupying. The Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia include peasants, fishermen, traders, and even officials. The Vietnamese enemy is currently issuing

documents to change the nationality of these Vietnamese nationals to Cambodian, and are opening schools for these Vietnamese to learn to read and speak Cambodian, learn Cambodian customs, and dress like Cambodians so that they can live in Cambodia permanently. These Vietnamese nationals enjoy privileges such as expanding their territory and plundering at will the Cambodian people's property, land, and houses under the protection of the Vietnamese aggressor soldiers. Along with this, the Vietnamese enemy is urging these settlers to marry Cambodians and produce offspring who will become Vietnamese.

Foreigners, reporters, and officials of humanitarian organizations living in Phnom Penh have witnessed this and have expressed their concerns in writing about this Vietnamization of Cambodia. Recently, an Italian doctor, Mrs (Esmeralda Lucioli), who lived in Cambodia for 2 years, wrote an article expressing concern over the situation in Cambodia where the Vietnamese aggressors are frantically implementing a Vietnamization policy. She described how the Vietnamese settlers control the Cambodian economy, plunder the Cambodian people's property, and maltreat the owners. She also wrote about Vietnamese human rights violations in Cambodia and the suppression of Cambodian traditions and culture, such as theatrical plays, traditional dances, and so on. She stressed that Vietnam is secretly implementing a dangerous Vietnamization policy. This policy threatens the survival of the Cambodian nation.

2. The Vietnamese enemy orders its aggressor troops in Cambodia to dress in the puppet soldiers' uniform, disguising themselves as the puppet soldiers and mixing with them. Some troops remain in their Vietnamese units but with the unit numbers changed to pass them off as the puppet forces. The Vietnamese enemy has also opened the Bak Tuk school in Phnom Penh for Vietnamese soldiers to learn Cambodian language and customs. These soldiers are then dispatched to infiltrate various villages and communes and carry out activities to plunder our people's property daily.

3. The regular Vietnamese forces, dressed in their own uniforms, are still being stationed in Cambodia. Not one of them have been withdrawn. On the contrary, fresh troops have been successively brought in. Furthermore, the Vietnamese move their troops from one place to another, particularly along the western border, to resist our National Army's attacks. The Vietnamese enemy also orders its troops to hide in the jungle, and has set up secret units, such as the intervention units which have secretly deployed along the road from Kompong Chhnang provincial town to the town's airfield. These Vietnamese soldiers are all learning Cambodian language and customs to prepare themselves for a permanent life in Cambodia.

Witnessing these Vietnamese enemy's activities in Cambodia, people can clearly see that the Hanoi Vietnamese are not preparing to withdraw their aggressor forces from

Cambodia in any year. On the contrary, they are making preparations to control Cambodia forever through the Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, the disguised Vietnamese soldiers, the Vietnamese soldiers hiding in the jungle, and through their puppets.

The Cambodian people inside the country are well aware of this problem. They realize the danger of this Vietnamization policy in Cambodia. It is a serious threat to the survival of the entire Cambodian nation and race. The Cambodian people will not let Cambodia become a second Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory in present-day south Vietnam]. They unite and rise to cooperate with the DK National Army and all Cambodian resistance forces to fight back against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors for the survival of the Cambodian nation and race. This is a sacred right and duty of every Cambodian.

VONADK on SRV Soldiers Disguised as Cambodians
BK1012030688 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] According to our DK National Army operating on the northwest and southwest Phnom Penh battlefields, in early November the Hanoi Vietnamese 478th Command in Phnom Penh withdrew two battalions of Vietnamese soldiers from the 9th Division, stationed on the northwest Phnom Penh battlefield, and two more battalions from the 7708th provincial forces operating south of Phnom Penh. These soldiers were sent to continue their studies of Cambodian writing, language, and customs at the Bak Tuk school, later called the Ang Chan primary school, opposite the (Borei Keila) sports complex in Phnom Penh.

This a dirty maneuver of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, who are trying to masquerade as Cambodians the Vietnamese aggressor soldiers in Cambodia. However, no matter how hard they try, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors remain Vietnamese. Their character, behavior, and practices remain Vietnamese. Their pale complexion and skinny appearance further confirm their Vietnamese nationality. Although they have learned to speak some Cambodian, one can still tell from their unclear speech that they are Vietnamese.

This clearly exposes the tricky nature of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Cambodia. They are not going to abandon their Indochinese federation strategy to annex Cambodian territory. Their loud cries telling people that they are withdrawing this or that number of their aggressor forces from Cambodia in this or that year are simply maneuvers to deceive international opinion.

More Vietnamese Troops Said Being Sent
BK1112043088 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The Hanoi Vietnamese enemy authorities sent 200 fresh Vietnamese troops dressed as puppet soldiers

to Prek Toal, where they were forwarded to Battambang Town on 2 December. An additional 500 fresh Vietnamese troops dressed as puppet soldiers were sent from Ha Tien on 4 December. They sailed by sea and disembarked at Ream port before being trucked through National Route 3 to Kong Pisei Town.

The above events clearly show that the Hanoi aggressors have not withdrawn their aggressor forces from Cambodia. On the contrary, they have successively sent more fresh Vietnamese troops from Vietnam into the country.

Further on Claims of Fresh Troops

*BK1212011688 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[Text] On 30 November, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors sent fresh Vietnamese soldiers dressed as puppet soldiers from Ha Tien by sea to Kompong Som port. These 70 truckloads of fresh Vietnamese troops were sent to Phnom Penh by National Route 4 before traveling along National Route 5 to battlefields in western Cambodia.

On 4 December, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy authorities sent 20 truckloads of Vietnamese soldiers from Vietnam dressed as puppet soldiers to Phnom Penh via National Route 3. They were then trucked to Battambang Town on National Route 5 before being forwarded to Samlot District seat on route 10.

On 5 December, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors sent five truckloads of fresh troops in Vietnamese and puppet soldiers' uniforms from Phnom Penh to Battambang Town along National Route 5, and then forwarded them to Samlot District seat along route 10. Also on 5 December, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors sent 30 truckloads of fresh Vietnamese troops in puppet soldiers' uniforms from Chau Doc along route 10 in Vietnam to Cambodia and then to Phnom Penh via National Route 2.

In sum, 125 truckloads of fresh Vietnamese aggressor troops were sent to Cambodia.

The above events clearly show that the Hanoi aggressors have not withdrawn their aggressor forces from Cambodia. On the contrary, they have successively sent more fresh Vietnamese troops from Vietnam into Cambodia.

VOK Rejects Heng Samrin Regime's Communism

BK1012102988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Political commentary: "What Has Communism Done to the Cambodian Nation?"]

[Text] At present, the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin regime is trying to indoctrinate the Cambodian people, particularly the Cambodian youths, with communism. The

Heng Samrin communist regime keeps claiming that its communist party is the only correct party to lead Cambodia. In its propaganda, the Heng Samrin regime boasts that its communism is the best system for Cambodia.

For this reason, we deem it necessary to examine what the Heng Samrin communist regime has done for the Cambodian people and whether or not this communist regime could lead Cambodia toward happiness as Heng Samrin has claimed.

Between 1975 and 1979, Pol Pot's communism brought serious destruction to Cambodia and all kinds of miseries and sufferings to the Cambodian people. We believe that every Khmer still remembers this very well, so there is no need to mention it again.

At the end of 1978, Vietnam sent troops to Cambodia, claiming that it came to help get rid of the ferocious Pol Pot regime, and took that opportunity to form the Heng Samrin communist regime to rule Cambodia.

What will this Vietnam-installed Heng Samrin communist regime bring to Cambodia in the future? Every Khmer knows well that this Heng Samrin communist regime is as dictatorial as the Pol Pot regime. The only difference is that the current stage of communism implemented by the Heng Samrin regime is not yet as brutal as that of the Pol Pot regime.

What is Vietnam's purpose in setting up this Heng Samrin communist regime? Vietnam and the Heng Samrin regime have claimed simultaneously that they are doing so in order to protect Cambodia from the threat of Pol Pot. In fact, Vietnam is playing a trick on Cambodia by propping up this Heng Samrin communist regime. Vietnam is using communism as a springboard to strengthen its political power within the ranks of the Heng Samrin communists as a means to control Cambodia.

We know that under the communist regime, the Cambodian people have no other alternative but to follow the communist leaders who are trained by Vietnam. Through this communist regime, the whole future of Cambodia will certainly be placed under Vietnam's control.

Therefore, even though Heng Samrin's propagandists have praised it, the Heng Samrin communist regime does not serve the interests of the Cambodian nation. Through the Heng Samrin communist regime, Cambodia will only be held ever tighter in the Vietnamese claws.

Briefly speaking, the communist regime is the most dangerous threat to the Cambodian motherland both now and in the future. Pol Pot's communist regime caused great havoc to the Cambodian nation and the crimes of the Pol Pot gang paved the way for Vietnam to come to create a new communist regime to serve as a springboard for its expansion in Cambodia and Indochina.

In fact, all these communist regimes have caused great disaster to Cambodia and turned it into a slave and a satellite.

In such a situation, all Khmers, regardless of their different political views, must joint hands and struggle to drive out the Vietnamese troops and eliminate the Heng Samrin communist regime—the springboard for Vietnam's expansion in Cambodia and Indochina.

Indonesia

Suharto Meets With Australian Premier Perron *BK1012071388 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0553 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 10 (OANA-ANTARA)—Visiting Premier of the Australian State of Northern Territories, Marshall Bruce Perron, paid a courtesy call on President Suharto at Binagraha Presidential Office here Saturday [10 December].

In the meeting, they discussed possible enhancement of trade relations between Indonesia and the Northern Australian State.

Speaking to newsmen after the meeting, Premier Perron said that he and President Suharto also discussed the possibilities for the enhancement of Bahasa Indonesia [Indonesian language] teaching in the Australian Northern Territories and for exchange of visits by officials of the two neighbouring nations.

He went on to say that his government has developed various facilities in Darwin, capital of the Northern Territories, for the increase of its trade relations with Indonesia.

He cited as an example that his government has built road networks which enable fast distribution of Indonesian goods to other parts of Australia.

Perron was also of the opinion that the enhancement of trade between Indonesia and Australia via the Northern Territories would be more efficient considering the transportation costs. Concerning the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in the Australian state, he told the president that Bahasa Indonesia has been taught in various schools and higher learning institutions of the Northern Territories since several years ago.

According to him, his government is currently introducing a policy for widening the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in schools.

He said that Bahasa Indonesia is at present the first foreign language taught in the Australian state, while some 3,000 Australians in the state have been intensively learning the Bahasa for various purposes.

In addition to the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia, the Northern Territories premier also stressed on the need for the exchange of teachers and students between the two nations.

Premier Marshall Bruce Perron arrived here Wednesday for a four-day official visit.

He further disclosed that a cooperation agreement on education, particularly on teaching of Bahasa Indonesia, between Indonesia and the Australian State of Northern Territories was signed in Darwin in November 1987.

Under the agreement, Indonesia will assist the Australian State of Northern Territories in developing a study centre for teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in Darwin.

As from January 1988, Indonesia and the Australian State of Northern Territories agreed to cooperate in the field of vocational trainings in some parts of Indonesia.

Gambian President Ends Visit 11 December *BK1112152288 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[Text] Gambian President Al Haj Dawda Kairaba Jawara says much can be done to promote Gambian-Indonesian cooperation, such as in the agricultural field—particularly in irrigation and increasing rice production. Before leaving Jakarta today, the Gambian president told newsmen that there is an organization in charge of irrigation matters in his country. This organization will study Indonesia's traditional and modern irrigation networks.

President Jawara described his visit as very useful. While in Indonesia, the Gambian guest also visited the Nusantara Aircraft Industry in Bandung and tourist spots in Bali.

3,000 Said Held in East Timor October-November *BK1112105588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 11 (AFP)—The authorities detained some 3,000 people in East Timor during the period surrounding an official visit there by President Suharto in early November, Indonesian civilian and military sources said Sunday.

Almost all were later released, but eight were still held on Armed Forces premises in Dili, capital of the former Dutch colony, informed civilian sources said.

Military sources in Dili said that only five people were now under arrest.

Almost all those detained belonged to "a kind of a religious-mystic sect" known by the name of San Antonio, which is said to have some 7,000 followers in Dili alone, reliable sources said.

Authorities mounted the swoop in October and November, before, during and after the Suharto visit, his first to East Timor since 1978.

Indonesian troops intervened in a civil war which broke out in East Timor shortly after the withdrawal of the Portuguese colonial administration in 1975 and unilaterally declared the territory its 27th province the following year.

Laos

Commentary on Thai-Chinese Weapons 'Stockpiling'
BK1212053288 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Commentary: "Arms Stockpiling is a Threat That Runs Counter to Epochal Trend"]

[Text] Dear listeners: Current developments in the world today, compared with those in past years, are much more conducive toward efforts to strengthen peace. The prominent event was the signing of the treaty on the elimination of short- and intermediate-range nuclear missiles by the major nuclear powers—the Soviet Union and the United States—which has reduced international tension, and opened the possibility of completely eliminating nuclear weapons in the world and thereby gaining permanent peace in the coming century.

Out of good intentions, in Vladivostok in 1986 the Soviet Union put forth new peace initiatives aimed at paving the way toward disarming Asia and the Pacific, which was welcomed by countries in this region. Conflicting countries have begun to turn to each other for consultations and cooperation. The Soviet Union and the PRC have been making efforts to settle the existing problems and normalize their mutual relations. The problems in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa, and those between the East and West are being worked on in a bright atmosphere. As for the Cambodian problem, the hottest of all, a political solution can possibly be jointly worked out. All these efforts have contributed to gradually liberating the world from tension, a massive arms race, arms stockpiling, and cold war, as the atmosphere and trend of peace has begun to develop. This is a new turning point of the era. It is a general trend that conforms with the rights and interests of all nations and their aspirations for peace and cooperation for socioeconomic development for the well-being of mankind.

Unfortunately, the ruling circles of some countries have stubbornly refused to comply with the epochal trend of peace. These conservative heads, such as some ASEAN countries, want to prolong military confrontation as other countries are holding consultations to find ways to reduce tension and put an end to confrontation. On the contrary, they consult each other on arms stockpiling

and setting up war reserve stockpiles through cooperation with some foreign countries. Recently, they have agreed with the United States to set up two war reserve stockpiles, and are planning to set up more in the future.

THAI RAT and THE NATION newspapers in their 20 and 28 November issues respectively reported that in addition to establishing war reserve stockpiles, Thailand has bought large amounts of weapons, including 60 T-69 tanks from China, 400 armored personnel carriers, a number of 105 mm artillery and antiaircraft artillery pieces, and 4 big radar-equipped warships. It is also reported that Thailand wants to buy F-7 jet fighters, 30 T-69 tanks, and an additional 800 armored personnel carriers from that country. The mass media noted that Thailand's arms stockpiling policy does not serve the Thai people's aspiration. To truly serve the people, it would be better to spend such huge amounts of money on something that could benefit the people instead of buying those useless weapons. Arms stockpiling runs counter to not only the people's rights and interests but also to the regional and world trend.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Afghanistan
BK1012121088 Vientiane KPL in English
0919 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Vientiane, December 10 (KPL)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the LPDR, on December 8, issued a statement on situation in Afghanistan.

The statement indicated the current situation in Afghanistan was increasingly aggravated after the signing of a Geneva agreement on Afghanistan. This was the result of an attack by anti-Afghan government group with the large support by the U.S.A. and Pakistan in arms and finance. At the same time, the Pakistani territory still remained the sanctuary for the mujahidin rebels.

Judging from the current situation, the Government of the LPDR viewed that a proposal of the Afghan Government to have an international conference convened under the auspices of the UN was very essential and most urgent. This was to find a solution to the Afghan issue and to completely end the bloodshed in Afghanistan as well as to safeguard the independence and the territorial integrity of this country, stressed the statement.

Philippines

Congressmen Want Bases Treaty Amended
HK1012043988 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
10 Dec 88

[Text] Members of the House are going to push for the amendment of seven provisions of the Military Bases Agreement [MBA] signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and U.S. Secretary of State George

Shultz. Representatives Rodolfo Albano, Nikki Cose-teng, and Gregorio Andolana were the prime authors of the move to amend the MBA.

The MBA at present allows for the passage of all types of sea and air vessels to the bases even if they carry nuclear-capable weapons.

Taiwan Ignores One-China Policy, Pledges Aid
*HK1212101788 Manila THE SUNDAY TIMES
 in English 11 Dec 88 p 3*

[By Agadel Guerrero and Lindy Maaba]

[Text] Taiwan has pledged to extend support to the Philippines despite the country's one-China policy.

Dr Shaw Yu-ming, director general of Taiwan information office, said the other day Taiwan was willing to share her experience and financial resources to its allies. He spoke before a group of educators and prominent leaders of the local Chinese community.

An overseas economic cooperation and development fund with a \$1-billion budget was established to extend such assistance, Shaw said.

The Philippines' diplomatic relations with Mainland China was not a hindrance for it to avail itself of the fund, Shaw said.

He also recalled that the Philippines opened diplomatic ties with Beijing in 1975, while it cut off diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Because of this, diplomatic matters were now being discharged by "economic and cultural center," he added.

On whether Taiwan would welcome Filipino contract workers, Shaw said this was not feasible at the moment because of land and labor problems.

In the near future, however, "there is a big room for future cooperation."

On the ticklish Spratly border dispute, he described this as an "honest dispute which should be settled peacefully."

Taiwan, along with the People's Republic, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines, has over-lapping maritime claims on the Spratly islands.

"We will settle the problem on the conflicting claims over the Spratly islands on a very friendly attitude and atmosphere," Shaw said.

He also discussed the present political and social development of the Republic of China and its significance to contemporary international politics.

Shaw also informed the academe that Taiwan had already earmarked for release of \$1 billion through its Overseas Economic Development Plan to help the economic development of the Third World countries and those friendly with Taiwan.

He added that the Philippines was considered one of the beneficiaries of this bonanza having been a longtime friend.

Aquino Urges Japanese Bank To Approve Loan
*HK1012044188 Baguio City Mountain Province
 Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
 10 Dec 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino urged the Export-Import Bank of Japan to approve a loan for P [pesos] 3.29 billion, or \$154 million, despite Manila's default of another loan from the bank.

Mrs Aquino said in a statement that Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme had written to the bank asking for the loan as soon as possible despite the default. She said the Foreign Affairs Department has also approached the Japanese Embassy for assistance in speeding the processing of the loans.

Japanese Embassy officials said the Philippines was technically in default for not paying interest on previous loans since September due to planned debt-rescheduling negotiations with its official creditors. But the country was not yet legally in default the officials said, adding they hope to settle the issue before the end of the year, but did not say how much was involved in the default.

Pressure Exerted To Recognize Palestinian State
*HK1212052088 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
 in English 12 Dec 88 p 10*

[By Reporter Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] Arab countries have been bringing diplomatic pressures to bear on the Philippines to secure its formal recognition of a Palestinian state.

Philippine Ambassador to Iraq, Akmad Sakkam [name as published], in a Nov. 25 dispatch from Baghdad, urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to effect such recognition, since it would be "pragmatic ... in consonance with national interest ... and aligned with the vaunted pronouncements of an independent foreign policy."

Mr. Sakkam revealed that Arab diplomats had expressed their "disappointment" over the Philippines' delay in recognizing the Palestinian state.

The Philippines acceded to UN Resolution 181 which called for the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. "Arabs hold the view that Yasir 'Arafat's declaration of a Palestinian state is only a logical, though much delayed, fulfillment of that resolution," a Middle East expert told BUSINESS WORLD.

Gratitude

Philippine support for a Palestinian nation at this stage would earn the "appreciation and gratitude" of Arab states which could be "utilized to our advantage in times to come," Mr. Sakkam pointed out.

The reciprocity of Arab goodwill, hinted at by the envoy's dispatch no uncertain terms, would be expressed in not "internationalizing the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) problem." [sentence as published]

There is danger of that, as MNLF chief Nur Misuari has repeatedly "dramatized the economic neglect of Muslim Mindanao," Mr. Sakkam stated.

"Muslim leaders complain that economic development in their regions has been neglected. However, that's also their fault.

"We strung powerlines to some Muslim villages but then couldn't collect on the electric bills. The linemen we sent to disconnect their electricity were terrorized into not doing so.

"So, how many more power lines do you think others will want to string up for them? Their problem is they think everything should be done for them, and for free," an official of a Mindanao electric cooperative explained to BUSINESS WORLD.

Mr. Sakkam warns that the MNLF may garner more support for its "cause" should fighting break out. Despite MNLF propaganda, the two-year-old cease-fire is holding, a foreign affairs official said.

Military sources said keeping an inordinate number of troops in the South was meant to forestall any chance for the secessionist forces to "take the initiative."

Merge of Honasan, Cabauatan Forces Reported
HK12120103588 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 12 Dec 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Military troops in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces have been put on red alert following intelligence reports that forces of renegade Army Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan and PC Maj. Reynaldo Cabauatan have merged to carry out new plans to attack vital government installations.

Reports reaching PC-INP Chief Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano said PC commands in Regions 1 and 2 are bracing up for new destabilization moves from rightist forces, following the alleged merger of Honasan and Cabauatan's forces in Northern Luzon.

The report said the group plans to attack military camps and other vital government installations. The report did not say, however, when the renegade soldiers would strike.

Most of the soldiers who joined the aborted Aug. 28 coup last year came from military camps in Central Luzon, particularly Camp O'Dwas.

Last Nov. 26, followers of ousted President Marcos in Northern and Central Luzon also trooped to Metro Manila to hold a series of rallies calling for a "constitutional coup" by the military.

Seized from some of the rallyists, who were under the group Commonwealth Development Corp. (Cedecor), were materials which detailed plans for Honasan's forces to join them in attacking vital government installations which they hoped would pave the way for the collapse of the Aquino Government.

Intelligence reports said the rightist group was preparing for another attempt to bring down the Aquino Government after its plan to seize power was foiled three weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Aquino Distributes Land Titles in Mindanao
HK1212084988 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] President Corazon Aquino visited General Santos City this morning where she met with farmers and other sectors in the city and urged multinational companies to share their wealth with the Filipino nation. The president also distributed land titles to the urban poor in the city.

Here is the report from General Santos City featuring the president's speech during her visit there this morning:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Montano] President Corazon C. Aquino arrived at Rajah Buayan Airport at around 0955 this morning on board a presidential plane and proceeded via helicopter to Dole Philippines, (Bulol Bulol) town, Cotabato where an awarding ceremony was being held in honor of some 7,005 farm workers who are beneficiaries of a Dole Philippines Incorporated land distribution program. President Aquino personally distributed certificate of land ownership awards to Dole employees who qualify for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program [CARP].

Accompanying the president were Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez, Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Juico, Senator Teofisto Guingona and Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos. Secretary Juico gave the opening remarks.

Here is an excerpt of the speech by President Aquino:

[Aquino in English in progress] ...a milestone in the history of the Filipino farmers and in the history of multinationals in the Philippines. We mark a milestone because we are distributing to a great number of Filipino farmers free stretches of agricultural lands that were operated and exclusively controlled by foreigners. In these lands, the Filipinos were mere workers and the foreigners were virtually the landowners and bosses, a benevolent one, to be sure. For the wage the companies paid their workers has been a reproach to our old management practices. Now, the workers have made a giant stride in their prospect of an even better life. For today, they become owners of the land they have worked and partners with their former bosses. It is our hope that this partnership will release an even greater dose of industry and a more copious flow of wealth that these lands can give. [end recording]

[Reporter Montano] That was President Corazon C. Aquino. This is Winnie Montano reporting for Radio Veritas from DXCP-General Santos City. [end recording]

Aquino Warns Military Against Rights Abuses
*HK1212050188 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
12 Dec 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has warned that human rights abuses, unless checked, would cause the return of a dictatorship. President Aquino denounced abuses caused by fascist and communist rebels and specially warned military men against this. Human rights groups have stepped up their attacks on Mrs Aquino. They accuse the government of being no different from that of former President Marcos' administration which was condemned internationally for alleged widespread abuses. President Aquino vowed to punish human rights violators. She also announced she was creating a special group to monitor the human rights situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the president met relatives of alleged victims of human rights abuses in Manila. She told them renewed efforts would be made to discover the whereabouts of missing activists. President Aquino was accompanied by Senator Wigberto Tanada, Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa, and Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez. Ordonez said that directives would be sent to all provincial and city magistrates to help relatives search for their missing kin.

Earlier about 2,000 human rights demonstrators took to the streets to protest against alleged human rights violations by the Aquino administration. Task Force Detainees, a monitoring group run by Catholic nuns, said almost 12,000 subversives have been arrested and 1,400 killed since President Aquino took office.

Editorial Views Prospect of Aquino's Reelection
*HK1212043988 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 12 Dec 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "Economic Success the Only Key to Cory's Reelection"]

[Text] President Aquino's brother, Congressman Jose Cojuangco, told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines last Friday that she might be persuaded "to run again ... if all the big leaders would want her to run again". His statement was made in the face of very firm assertions of Mrs. Aquino that she was not seeking reelection, saying that she considered herself a transitional President.

Until Congressman Cojuangco spoke on the subject, the President's disavowal of ambitions of succeeding herself appeared to have a ring of conviction. Mr. Cojuangco's remarks have at least cast doubt on the President's intentions.

There are many reasons why his remarks cannot be taken lightly. He is a political confidante of the President. As well, he is the secretary-general of the new political formation, the *Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino* [LDP—struggle of Philippine Democrats], which is now the majority party in the House of Representatives. This party was formed, among other things, apparently to serve as the political vehicle for the transparent presidential ambitions of Speaker Ramon Mitra—that is, if the President does not stand for reelection.

If she can be "persuaded" to seek reelection, well, the LDP will certainly come in handy as a patronage machine.

It is unclear whether Mr. Cojuangco is speaking of his own preference or is reflecting the weakening resistance by the President to importunings that she run again. Whatever the truth may be, Mr. Cojuangco's statement has kicked up further speculation about the President's plans.

Mr. Cojuangco recalled that Mrs. Aquino had insisted prior to the 1986 snap election that she was not interested in contesting the presidency but gave in to widespread demand. He added that "if all the big leaders should agree to have her run again, more particularly the potential presidential aspirants, if they all bond together like before, they say that she would run again," she might seek reelection.

If Mr. Cojuangco is looking at the reemergence of the unique circumstances that prompted his sister to run against former President Marcos, he could be engaged in wishful thinking. It is unlikely that the "big leaders" would again rally behind her leadership.

The only possible situation in which presidential aspirants would meekly yield to her is a performance that commends another term. Despite her continuing popularity, Mrs. Aquino is proving to be a disappointment. The key to the desirability of reelecting her is how the economy will perform for the rest of her term. Economic success is the best recommendation for reelection—not the confabulation of political leaders rigging the political process.

One must not rule out that Mr. Cojuangco could be flying a kite. If he is sensitive to the signals of public opinion, Mr. Cojuangco might benefit from reading correctly rising indications of disenchantment, especially of the urban middle class, over President Aquino's leadership whose main characteristic following her first 1,000 days is that it lacks definition.

Column Views 1992 Presidential 'Routes'
*HK1212102788 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 12 Dec 88 pp 1, 8*

[("Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "Routes To Choose Presidential Bets")]

[Text] Midway through the term of President Aquino, the search for her possible successor has intensified. There is no shortage of aspirants, but what is important for us to know is that the quest—call it preselection, if you please—is taking place under changing patterns of recruitment for national political leadership.

The rules of the game that governed presidential politics prior to the declaration of martial law in 1972 no longer hold. This means that any presidential aspirant who follows the pre-1972 route is likely to encounter treacherous pitfalls. Also, once we understand that the rules of the game have changed, we can make sense of the apparently contrasting patterns of preparations being made by at least two visible aspirants, Speaker Ramon Mitra and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos.

The pattern of recruitment for the presidency based on material from the Senate or the House of Representatives was shattered by the imposition of authoritarianism by former President Marcos. Fourteen years of authoritarian rule diminished the importance of Congress as the recruitment ground for the presidency.

The pattern was further truncated by the events leading to the 1986 snap presidential election and the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] uprising—events which, as you well know, produced not only our first woman

President but also a politically inexperienced person recruited not from parliament—the historical breeding ground for Filipino national leaders—but from the family kitchen.

Given these changes, Mitra would be mistaken if he designed his quest for the presidency on the basis of the pre-1972 recruitment patterns. His strategy is traditional. Consider these:

The formation of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—struggle of Philippine Democrats] made up of diverse allies, including former Marcos' KBL members, establishes a political vehicle for the Speaker's presidential aspirations, as well as a machine for the distribution of patronage, assuming Mrs Aquino does not seek reelection.

His alliance with Rep. Jose Cojuangco, the President's younger brother who is the secretary general of the LDP, is a pact of political convenience.

With the party base anchored on the House, the Speaker now holds the advantage of having networks extending to the congressional districts.

But this return to orthodoxy in political base building does not ensure that the old recruitment pattern will prevail in the 1992 selection. Other alternative paths—that is, outside the congressional arena—are now available and are, in fact, being explored by other people.

One option is recruitment from the Cabinet. This is open to Ramos. Since the 1986 revolution, the retired general has been politicking, with his sights set on higher office, although he has been ambiguous about his ambitions. Among public figures, Ramos has consistently made a high popularity rating in public opinion polls. His popularity parallels that of President Aquino.

In the pre-1972 pattern, one Cabinet secretary had been catapulted to the presidency—then Defense Secretary, Ramos Magsaysay. But prior to the defense post, he had been a member of the House. So, it could be said that he basically followed the traditional recruitment route.

Ramos' intervention in such mainly civilian concerns as New People's Army's rival land reform program may be seen as an attempt to broaden his public constituency. He had to do it because he did not have the same party base of Mitra. Ramos' constituency is the military, but it does not have the votes.

The only way Ramos can break the grip of the traditional system of recruitment now being revived by Mitra is to sustain his popularity rating and make himself available for a draft by the administration party, if there is a deadlock in the party convention, or be adopted by competing parties. His being without a party gives him

flexibility. The late Magsaysay, who was a Liberal, was adopted as the presidential candidate of the Nacionalista Party because the party leaders believed it could win the election only through him.

The third route is through the provincial capitols. Easily, three dynamic provincial executives can be identified—Gov. "Bitay" Lacson of Negros Occidental, Gov. Emilio Osmena of Cebu and Gov. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur. Historically, no governor has become a President. But given the tentativeness of the party system, the way is open for them to crash into presidential politics through the party conventions.

These three governors are all identified with the decentralization movement. Their initiatives are being stifled by the concentration of economic resources in Manila and bureaucratic inertia. Despite these constraints, Negros Occidental is experiencing an agro-business revival following the collapse of the sugar industry, and Cebu has been transformed into the Philippines' version of the small tigers' economic miracle.

With the party system still very malleable and with the provincial governors and city mayors flexing their muscle, it is possible for them to exert leverage in the party selection process.

The point I am making is that several options are now available for a more plural presidential recruitment base. The monopoly of Congress as the recruitment ground has been broken by our political evolution over the past 16 years. No one can be confident that a strategy based on the congressional route is the key to success.

De Villa Says No Cease-Fire for Christmas
HK1012084188 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa announced that no cease-fire will be declared this Christmas with respect to the ongoing war between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the NPA. He added that there will be no repetition of the cease-fire of the previous years.

[Begin De Villa recording in English] If you are thinking of the cease-fire that went on in 1986, the answer is no. We have, however, been asked to study a limited or a very limited moratorium on operations in deference to Christmas Day or the anniversary of the birth of Christ. [end recording]

Gen Renato de Villa also announced in a news conference that 27 NPA personnel have been killed by Brigadier General Alejandro Galido's soldiers of the Southern Luzon Command [Solcom]. Brigadier General Galido also reported in his talks with De Villa that 16 NPA

rebels have been captured and 24 heavy firearms confiscated by the Solcom. On the government side, two soldiers were killed while three others were wounded in the Quezon Province offensive.

Remarking on reports about the possible return of Jose Maria Sison, suspected founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], Gen de Villa said there was still no explicit indication that Sison would return to the country next month, or in February, or on the last day of March. However, Gen de Villa asserted that if Joma Sison returns to the country the military will take steps to arrest the suspected CPP founder.

General de Villa also said that Camp Crame officers involved in the death of former Colonel Francisco Baula will face criminal and administrative charges in civilian court. However, he claimed that an investigation conducted by a board of military officers showed that Colonel Baula was shot by Constable First Class Bayani Barcenas and Constable Banares because he was trying to escape.

Quezon Officers Oppose Truce
HK1012092988 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Dec 88 pp 1, 10

[By Cesar M. Espino]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday said she favors a moratorium on military offensives against communist rebels during the Christmas holidays, but added she would consult first with the military before she gives out an order.

Gen [General] Renato S. de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, said in another interview the military would study the matter and would abide by any order from the President to temporarily stop offensive operations.

However, junior military officers involved in the massive offensive to free six soldiers captured by the rebels in Quezon warned of a mass resignation in the military if a Christmas cease-fire is implemented in the province.

Brig Gen Jesus Hermosa, chief of the Visayas Command, said he does not favor a ceasefire. He said, however, that it was his personal view which did not reflect those of other military commanders. He added that it is up to the President to decide on the ceasefire.

"If it was possible last year, I hope we can do it again this year—at least for Christmas and New Year," Ms Aquino said.

The President told newsmen yesterday morning she would discuss with De Villa the possibility of a nationwide cease-fire. The chief of staff went to Malacanang yesterday to attend a meeting with a human rights group but he refused to say if the cease-fire was discussed with the President.

Presidential legal adviser Adolfo Azcuna said he heard the President discuss the moratorium with De Villa but he refused to give details of the discussion.

De Villa said the military will go on with its normal operations until it receives an order to stop from the President.

"We are not stopping our military operations as of now," De Villa said. He added the military will comply with any decision of "superior authority."

Four senators urged Ms Aquino Thursday to adopt a moratorium on military offensives similar to last year's. Ms Aquino said last Wednesday she was open to a cease-fire but the rebels must ask the government formally.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Orlando Mercado, together with Senators Ernesto Macea, John Osmena and Aquilino Pimentel, said the government should initiate a cease-fire without waiting for the rebels to request for one.

"I would not recommend a cease-fire again," Hermosa said. "Based on our experience, the rebels were able to use the cease-fire for their own good. If they want to talk, we in the military can talk to them and the same time continue shooting. The best way to negotiate is always from a position of strength and place the enemy under pressure," Hermosa said.

Field commanders deployed in Gumaca, Quezon said it would be a big insult to them if they failed to rescue the seven soldiers held hostage by the NPA because their massive operation, which involves 3,000 troops, is stopped by a cease-fire.

Soldiers in Infanta, Quezon said that although they wanted a respite during the Christmas season the rebels would surely outscore them.

"Malaki na ang nagastos ng gobyerno sa operasyong ito kaya dapat ituloy-tuloy ang labanan para malaman na ang panalo" [The government has spent a lot in launching this operation. Therefore, it should be followed through to see who the winner is], a Scout Ranger told reporters yesterday.

However, Gen Alejandro Galido, Southern Luzon Command chief, told newsmen that President Aquino, being the commander in chief, is the only one who can declare a cease-fire in Quezon.

Bishop Emilio Marquez, a member of the civilian negotiating panel, talked to Gregorio Rosal, spokesman of the New People's Army in Quezon, over a two-way radio yesterday. Marquez pleaded with Rosal to release the seven soldiers before Christmas and promised to help facilitate compliance with their demands.

The government entered into a 60-day truce with the NDF starting December 1986. The military establishment said the cease-fire only gave the rebels time to consolidate their forces and recruit new members and has since been strongly against another cease-fire.

Last Christmas, the government ordered 48-hour cease-fires on Christmas and New Year. The military at the time was apprehensive about stopping operations throughout the holidays, since the anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines falls on Dec 28 and its celebration is usually marked by rebel offensives.

A moratorium on offensive operations means the military will stop going after the rebels, but will not pull out troops, especially from rebel-infested areas.

Radio Station Executives Said Missing

*BK1012151788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT
10 Dec 88*

[Text] Lucena, Philippines, Dec 10 (AFP)—Two radio station executives went missing here Saturday and may have gone into hiding after a quarrel with the military commander of Quezon Province, south of Manila, their stations said.

Joselito Ojeda, owner of DWI and Romeo Carmona, owner of DWLQ, could not be located by their staffers following a meeting with Quezon Military Commander Brigadier General Francisco Galido on Friday.

Mr. Ojeda and Mr. Carmona, who are also active broadcasters, had recently been at odds with the military for airing radio interviews with communist insurgent leaders who have been holding six soldiers captive in the province since September.

The two broadcasters are also members of an unofficial negotiating team working for the release of the six soldiers despite military objections to such talks.

The conflict with the military blew into the open Friday when soldiers went to the radio stations and confiscated firearms that had earlier been issued by the military to the two broadcasters.

The two men, accompanied by Roman Catholic Bishop Emilio Marquez, another member of the unofficial negotiating team, met in private with Brig. Gen. Galido later that day but they failed to reach an agreement.

The two broadcasters and Bishop Marquez later told journalists Friday, that the general had asked them to stop airing interviews with communist insurgents but that the two had insisted they were only doing their duty as broadcasters.

They also said that the general's Public Relations Officer Colonel Hernani Figueroa had charged that their broadcasts were disrupting a military offensive against the insurgents in Quezon, adding that those who obstructed the offensive "must be destroyed."

The following day, the two could not be located by their employees. Associates of the two broadcasters were puzzled by the incident since both Mr. Ojeda and Mr. Carmona were known to be close to certain military officials.

Further on Radio Commentators
HK1012093388 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIER in English 10 Dec 88 pp 1, 8

[By R. Villadiego]

[Text] Lucena City—Constabulary troopers in full battle gear raided two radio stations here yesterday and "arrested" two radio commentators for allegedly "sabotaging the ongoing massive operations" to free the seven soldiers held captive by communist guerillas, the INQUIRER learned.

The PC troopers—some with Armalite rifles and the others with grenade launchers—stormed stations DWI and DWLQ at about 8:30 a.m. and brought the two radio commentators to the Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM), headquarters at Camp Nakar radio stations' officers told the INQUIRER.

The broadcasters, Joselito Ojeda, DWI general manager, and Romeo Carmona, DWLQ station manager, were later released after a brief "dialog" with SOLCOM officers led by Brig Gen Alejandro Galido.

The INQUIRER learned the two went into hiding after the "interrogation" and failed to show up for their daily radio program.

Col Hernani Figueroa, SOLCOM spokesman, said the two were not arrested, but merely invited for questioning regarding their negative stand against the military operation.

A few days after some 3,000 combat troops were sent to Quezon Province for a massive search-and-rescue mission, both stations started criticizing the operations and aired for at least two times during the week taped interviews of rebel leaders, the military said.

The two stations had been warned before by the defense department "for one-sided reporting of insurgency-related stories."

However, Ojeda and Carmona claimed that since they were media representatives in the negotiation panel, they were entitled to air the statements of Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka [Comrade] Roger, spokesman of the NPA Melito Glor Command.

During the dialog at SOLCOM headquarters in Camp Nakar, Figueroa raised his voice and said "anybody that is an obstacle to our operations must be destroyed."

Figueroa said that "since the military is spending a lot of money for the operation, we (military) could not allow anybody to disrupt the operation."

In a related development, Galido said the military is winning against the rebels on the 10th day of the operation.

Military reports said that the nine-day massive operation resulted in the death of 28 rebels.

Arthur Espleto, 33, brother-in-law of slain registered owner of the three "communist-financed" ships told the INQUIRER that contrary to military report, no encounter occurred in Barangay Patnanungan, one of the islets in Polillo group of islands last Monday.

Espleto said the military had killed three civilians, including his brother on the island.

Human rights groups here said they will present Espleto to President Aquino to testify against human rights violation committed by the military in Quezon province.

Espleto said the MV Edison, one of the three vessels blasted by the Air Force gunships during the military's operation off the Polillo islands, is a regular passenger boat transporting rice and other products to the islands.

Military Expands Offensive in Southern Luzon
HK1212044788 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Dec 88 pp 1, 20

[By Owen Masagana]

[Text] Lucena City—The Armed Forces operations against the New People's Army (NPA) were expanded yesterday to include the island provinces of Mindoro Oriental and Occidental and Marinduque where the rebel forces have reportedly fled in the face of the military offensive.

Brig Gen Alejandro A. Galido, Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief, said that nine helicopter gunships, six boats and about 6,000 officers and men are operating in Quezon and Laguna, while the PC-INP Recom 4 is assigned along national roads as a blocking force.

Government troops in Batangas, Rizal, Quezon and the Bicol region have launched operations to rescue the seven military men held prisoners by the Melito Glor Command of the NPA in Quezon.

Jesus Decena, Solcom public information chief, said that since the start of operations 12 days ago, 29 rebels have been killed, 16 captured, and 24 Armalite rifles and thousands of bullets recovered.

dependent on oil and natural gas. The share of oil imports per cent of net oil imports rose 19% in 1987 and exports have not kept up for many years, causing a deficit.

The oil import dependency is reflected in the following figures. In 1987, Thailand's oil imports were 1.2 million barrels per day, while its oil production was 0.5 million barrels per day.

Under the new plan, Thailand will import 3.5 million barrels per day by 1995 and 4.5 million barrels per day by 2000. This will increase its imports by 1.5 million barrels per day over the period of the plan.

Basis: Oilseed

This analysis does not take account of increases

in oilseed imports, which may be as high as 1.5 million barrels per day by 2000. This would add another 0.5 million barrels per day to the total oil imports.

Oilseed

Thailand's oilseed imports are currently about 1.5 million tonnes per year. This is equivalent to 1.5 million barrels per day. This is about 10% of Thailand's oilseed imports.

Policy of Thailand: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 1: The rates of oilseed imports are increased by 10% annually from 1988 to 2000.

Oilseed: Case 1: 10% annual increase

The following analysis is based on the assumption that Thailand may import 1.5 million tonnes per year in 1988 and 2.5 million tonnes per year in 1995.

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The following analysis is based on the assumption that Thailand may import 1.5 million tonnes per year in 1988 and 2.5 million tonnes per year in 1995.

Case 2: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 3: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 4: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Oilseed: Case 4: 10% annual increase

The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 5: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Oilseed: Case 5: 10% annual increase

Case 6: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 7: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 8: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Oilseed: Case 8: 10% annual increase

Case 9: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Oilseed: Case 9: 10% annual increase

Case 10: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 11: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Case 12: The import duty on oilseed is 10% in fat content and 15% on the rest of oilseed. The import duty on oilseed is 10% of the total oilseed imports.

Thailand should stop negotiating for the maintenance of privileges because they were an uncertainty.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Affairs Committee said Thailand reserved the right to retaliate if it deems the U.S. Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 unfair and damaging.

The committee summarized retaliatory measures the U.S. had used against countries which it considered followed unfair trade practices.

The measures included the imposition of counter-vailing duty, suspension or cuts in GSP privileges and greater market access for U.S. exports.

The panel suggested the Government:

- Keep the people informed of its position in trade with the U.S..
- Abide by the principles of law and commitments with the U.S. in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.
- Bear in mind the country's long-term interests.
- Amend investment, manufacturing and export procedures to deny the U.S. pretexts to adopt trade retaliatory measures.
- Promote understanding with U.S. politicians, interest groups and the public about Thailand's need for national development, investment promotion and exports.
- Improve production efficiency without reliance on subsidies.
- Exploit international fora to increase Thailand's bargaining position in negotiations with the U.S.

Dailies View Decision

BK1012114788 [Editorial Report] Two Thai-language dailies, MATICHON and NAEON NA, on 10 December carry editorials commenting on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's decision that Thailand should stand firm in the coming negotiations with the United States and not to commit itself to copyright protection for computer software even though it may risk losing the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP] rights for Thai exports to the United States.

NAEON NA's editorial on page 5, entitled "Chose the Right Way Out," quotes Chatchai as saying that the GSP rights will not be there forever and the United States can drop Thailand from the list of beneficiaries at any time. Thailand must try to stand on its own feet by producing goods competitive on the world market instead of always counting on tax exemptions from other countries. NAEON NA warns that, if its stands to lose the GSP privilege, the government must, first, find a large market with a high purchasing power for Thai products as a substitution for the U.S. markets, and, second, be prepared for unemployment and other welfare problems anticipated by the factories and exporters who will be affected.

The paper reviews the role of GSP benefits to developing countries for more than 10 years now, noting that the program is governed by rules and regulations. Thailand is a major beneficiary of it, with the categories of exports having grown from 199 items to 560 at present. The GSP program is therefore something of a long term, and not unpredictable as Chatchai said. "The GSP program is hardly unpredictable. It is a special privilege enjoyed by Thailand as well as some other developing countries. Goods lose their tax exempt status only when they have exceeded the quotas set by the U.S. Government and not because of any political uncertainties or changes," the paper says.

NAEON NA reminds the government that Thailand has only recently been able to diversify and expand its exports and that it still has poor potential for developing and standardizing its export commodities. If we reject U.S. help, we may have to find ourselves staggering all alone.

MATICHON's page 8 editorial, entitled: "First Step Toward Our Self Reliance," praises the prime minister for not yielding to U.S. pressure to include computer software protection in the Copyright Bill. The paper says that the policy of self reliance is correct. We should try to compete with others by making our goods competitive in the world market. "By making ourselves ready to face any kind of trade policies or practices from the United States or other countries, we will little by little strengthen our position in our trade defensive and in our struggle to achieve a better place in the world market," the paper says.

MATICHON praises the government for making a bold decision placing national interests above all. What is left to be done by the government is to inform the public of steps taken or to be taken so as to achieve full cooperation and support from the people, a national sanction needed for any bargaining with the United States in the future.

'Burmese Students' Fire on Police Helicopters
BK1112110588 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
11 Dec 88 pp 19, 20

[Text] According to a report, two police helicopters were fired on from the ground fire while hovering over a forest in Ban Nam Phiang Din, Muang District, Mae Hong Son Province, at 1400 on 9 December. On board the planes were Police Major General Kowit Watthana, Zone 3 Border Patrol Police commissioner, accompanied by Police Colonel Nawin Singhaphalin, deputy provincial police chief for Area 7, and a number of subordinates. The team was on a mission to inspect border areas in Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son suspected of having heroin refineries. It left Chiang Mai on 9 December for Ban Bang Mu, Muang District, Mae Hong Son, to pick up Police Colonel Suraphan Siwatthana, chief of Mae Hong Son Provincial Police.

An unidentified number of attackers hiding in the dense jungle fired over 100 M-16 rounds at the helicopters hitting the cockpit and the door of a helicopter but nobody was injured. The attack caused the plane to go out of control and nearly hit a mountain. Fortunately, the pilot managed to pull the plane up to escape the gunfire and headed for Chiang Mai safely.

According to the report, those firing on the helicopters were Burmese students hiding in the dense jungle of Ban Huai Hai, Tambon Pha Phong, Muang District, in Mae Hong Son. A group of about 200 underground Burmese students arrived there 3 days ago from Ban Huai Ha in Burma fleeing suppression by Burmese troops. They heard that the Burmese military planned to fly helicopters at a low altitude to search for hiding students. This is the reason why they mistook the Thai planes and fired on them.

After the incident, Mae Hong Son Governor Pramuan Rutchanaseri on 10 December instructed the chief of Muang District, Praphat Saengin, to lead a team of officials to push the Burmese students out of Thai territory. The students however refused to leave, but asked for shelter inside Thailand. Late in the afternoon, Pramuan arrived there himself to persuade the Burmese students to leave, but they again refused.

According to reports, tension is growing at the border area in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son as there has been an anticipation of clashes between the Burmese troops and students, in addition to clashes with ethnic minorities who are trying to control the ground for opium production during the cold season. Also as a result of heavy suppression against ethnic minorities by the Burmese Government, a group of Wa ethnic people crossed the border into Thailand. Fourteen of them are now being held by the Special Police Operation Force. Based on the situation, Police Colonel Bamrung Koetdi, chief of Chiang Mai Provincial Police, has ordered a full reinforcement of the Special Police Operation Force to the border areas in readiness to push out intruding aliens.

Chawalit, Army Delegation To Visit Burma
BK1212010988 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchayut will pay a one-day visit to Burma on Wednesday [14 December] to meet with Burma's top military officers, including Saw Maung, sources close to the general said yesterday.

Assigned by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, the Army Chief will lead a military mission to Rangoon to hold border talks centred on an exodus of Burmese dissident students to the Thai-Burmese border to join ranks with Burmese rebels, the sources said.

Gen Chawalit, who last visited Burma in April, will raise Thailand's concern over the recent influx of Burmese students into the Kingdom with his counterparts in Rangoon.

Air Force To Evaluate China's F-7M Fighters
BK1012023188 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Dec 88 p 4

[Excerpts] The air force has set up a committee to evaluate the performance of the Chinese-made F-7M fighters before making a decision on whether to purchase that type of plane or not, air force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat Aphichari said yesterday.

Woranat said a number of F-7Ms will be flown to Thailand in March for a demonstration in Bangkok.

The Thai military expressed interest in the Chinese planes during last month's visit to China by Supreme Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchayut.

Woranat said the air force became interested in the F-7M after the U.S. ignored Thailand's interest in its A-10 attack aircraft which is specifically designed for anti-tank warfare.

He said the U.S. offered no explanation as to why Thailand's query about A-10, made last year, was not answered.

"The air force made an inquiry about the feasibility (of buying the airplane) and the price but was ignored," he said. [passage omitted]

Woranat said if the committee decides in favour of the purchase, the air force will buy a squadron of 12-18 F-7Ms. It would be the air force's first purchase of Chinese arms. [passage omitted]

Chatchai Terms Chinese Weapons 'Suitable'
BK0912114188 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO
in Chinese 9 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan stresses that Chinese weapons are most suitable for Thailand's current needs because they are cheap and payable in installments. Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan, who is concurrently defense minister, yesterday made the remarks while briefing the House Military Affairs Committee on the weapons purchase.

Chaweng Wongyai, spokesman of the House Military Affairs Committee, told reporters that his committee yesterday invited the prime minister and defense minister to explain the issue concerning commissions on the weapon purchase. The prime minister said that in the past, we had to contact private brokers for the weapon

purchase in accordance with international regulations, so we had to pay commissions. But now, we have switched to the government to government procedures, so there is no commission.

Chaweng said that the prime minister had explained that nowadays the Armed Forces have to look at necessary conditions in purchasing weapons because of budgetary constraints, and contact countries which offer cheaper prices. For example, the Chinese weapons are most suitable for Thailand's current needs because both countries are on good speaking terms and the prices of the Chinese weapons are low and payable in installment. The purchase also be carried out on a government to government basis.

Editorial Views Buying of Weapons From PRC
BK1212021588 Bangkok THE NATION English
12 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Do We Really Need To Buy More Arms?"]

[Text] Thailand's acquisition of Chinese arms in recent years has been phenomenal.

At first, Thailand received small arms and ammunition and a few sample pieces of 105mm and 130mm artillery as gifts from China during the days of Supreme Commander Gen [General] Athit Kamlang-ek in 1983-86. The small arms and ammunition were used mostly by suar phran [rangers] units of the Army-trained militiamen.

After Gen Chawalit Yongchayut succeeded Gen Athit in 1986, he embarked on an ambitious military modernization programme which is aimed at improving combat readiness, mobility and firepower of the armed forces and at the same time reducing the size of their manpower. The low-cost Chinese arms fit perfectly into Gen Chawalit's military modernization, especially when the country is still facing budget constraints and fighting poverty in the northeast.

The Army's purchase of Chinese arms included 30 T-69/2 tanks, 400 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and some 130mm artillery; purchase contracts for another shipment of 30 T-69/D tanks and 800 APCs were recently signed when Gen Chawalit visited Beijing.

In July, the Navy signed a purchase contract for four Chinese frigates that cost about Bt300 million. It is also looking into the possibility of buying conventional Chinese submarines.

The Air Force has bought Chinese P-74 anti-aircraft guns for defence of airbases. Now it is very interested in the Chinese F-7 jet fighter, which is a modified version of the Soviet MiG-21. The Chinese will send one F-7 to Thailand in March, next year, so that Air Force pilots can test fly the aircraft.

Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat Aphichari says the F-7 is good enough to meet the Thai defence need and at the price of only about \$3-3.9 million each, it is an irresistible choice.

At first, the Air Force was interested in the American A-7 Corsair all-weather ground-support warplane. But the U.S. reportedly is lukewarm to Thai approaches for this powerful and highly reliable warplane, which is famous for its bombing accuracy and many of which are still in active commission in the U.S. army and air force.

ACM Woranat says the Thai interest in the Chinese F-7 is real and is not simply a show to spite the U.S. for ignoring Thailand's enquiries concerning the A-7 Corsair.

Thai military leaders may know what they are doing in their shopping for Chinese arms. But we think they must also try to explain to the Thai general public how these low-cost Chinese arms will enhance Thai military preparedness and thus improve national security.

One of the questions being asked is this: Do we really need more arms, regardless of their cost, when virtually the entire world is turning toward disarmament and solutions are being worked out to end all regional conflicts, including the one in Kampuchea?

Editorial Optimistic on SRV Troop Withdrawal
BK0912142788 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
9 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Will Vietnam Withdraw Its Troops?"]

[Text] There is news from the Soviet Embassy in Thailand that Vietnam will definitely withdraw its troops from Cambodia. Thus, it invited journalists in Thailand to be witnesses in Cambodia on 15 December.

If this news is true, and not a trick, it is tantamount to confirming the remarks by Natwar Singh, Indian minister of state for external affairs, who disclosed this matter and confirmed to Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila recently that Vietnam will withdraw its first batch of troops totaling 50,000 men from Cambodia by the end of this year.

When Vietnam expressed such an attitude, it was considered good news for the relaxation of cold war tension which has existed for a long time. Our leaders' positive response that they will visit Vietnam is considered appropriate.

The results of such an attitude will be beneficial not only to Cambodia and other neighboring countries, but will also create great benefit to Vietnam itself in the future in the way that it will receive more trust and credibility. If Vietnam continues to work on this issue by withdrawing all of its troops in the future, it is sure that Vietnam will be treated well by other countries, both economically

and socially. At that time, Vietnam will have opportunities to restore its country and will have real peace. Nobody will be suspicious of it and will be ready to associate with it sincerely and seriously.

However, it is still too early to dream that Vietnam will do everything to settle all the problems because there are still several problems which have not yet been touched upon and which are also very important that may become preconditions for total troop withdrawal. Vietnam has set up conditions before, such as the problem concerning the role of the Khmer Rouge in the new Cambodian government to be formed by elections after Vietnam withdraws its troops. Even ASEAN countries have differing stands over this matter. This may cause problems for the withdrawal of the remaining troops after the first withdrawal of 50,000 troops.

Normally, Vietnam will not agree to anything easily. But, when there is such news, we can not help but be optimistic.

Vietnam

Six Divisions Prepared for Withdrawal

BK1012104288 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Report from our radio correspondent in Phnom Penh says units of six divisions and some detachment regiments of the Vietnamese Army volunteers in Kampuchea are prepared to return home. In recent months, 32,000 Vietnamese troops have withdrawn from Kampuchea and another 18,000 troops will be pulled out.

Cordial get-togethers and meetings to bid farewell to soldiers to be repatriated have been held in many localities in Kampuchea.

Anti-PRC Clauses in Constitution To Be Scrapped

OW1212005788 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT
12 Dec 88

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 12 KYODO—Vietnam's National Assembly will open a session Tuesday to delete parts of its Constitution hostile to China and the United States, Assembly sources said Sunday.

The sources said that by revising the Constitution, Vietnam will make it clear to the world that its foreign policy has changed.

The government submitted the amendments to the Assembly in June which propose that words in the Constitution's preamble such as "confrontation to China's expansionism and hegemonism" and "fight against U.S. imperialism" be toned down or deleted.

The sources said Vietnam's new foreign policy may include an end to its northern border conflict and ownership dispute over the Spratly Islands in South China Sea with China.

Vietnam is also seeking to improve relations with the United States, the sources said.

The present Constitution was enacted in December 1980, four years after the drafting work began following national unification.

The coming National Assembly session will be the first called by Prime Minister Do Muoi, who took office in June.

The sources said the Assembly session will also study a trade and custom duty bill to invite foreign investments in order to improve the nation's economic situation.

Top officials at economy-related government agencies will be replaced and several of them will be sacked for failing to arrest inflation, the sources said.

Leaders Send Condolences on Earthquake in USSR

BK0912154188 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT
9 Dec 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 9—Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and State Council President Vo Chi Cong have sent a joint message of sympathies to Party General Secretary and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Mikhail Gorbachev over the disastrous earthquake in the Soviet Republic of Armenia.

The message said: "We are deeply shocked at the news of the recent earthquake in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic and other republics in northern Caucasia causing great losses in lives and property".

The message conveys the deepest condolences to the Soviet people and the families of the quake victims, and wishes for early return of normalcy in the stricken regions.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi has also sent his sympathies to the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Editorial Reviews National Situation in 1988

BK1212103188 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 11 Dec 88

[12 December NHAN DAN editorial: "A Perspective of 1988"]

[Text] In the socioeconomic field, there have been numerous complicated changes in 1988. Since the beginning of the planned year, this year has been assessed as the pivotal year of the 1986-90 5-year plan. It is a year that has required extraordinary efforts from every sector, every echelon, and every one of us to effect a change for the better—not a tremendous step capable of completely changing the situation, but one capable of a modest change with the aims of attaining a grain production target of 19 million metric tons, tackling the grain and

food problem more satisfactorily, increasing the industrial and commodity production value by 12.5 percent and export value by 17.6 percent, shifting economic activities to socialist business accounting, and creating a drastic change on the distribution and circulation front to spur production, ensure successful business transactions, and reduce the difficulties that confront the laboring people's lives.

We are now in the final month of the year. It is time for us to review the situation throughout the year to correctly assess what has been done well and what has not, as well as assessing what continues to be done and what will be done.

The coming Eighth National Assembly meeting, in its review of the implementation of the 1988 state plan and budget, will certainly provide us with an accurate insight into the situation. Should we be optimistic or pessimistic, or should we show neither optimism nor pessimism? It can be said straightforwardly that not much has been done since early this year to overcome numerous difficulties for these difficulties have, in certain areas, become more serious.

In the middle of the year, food shortages and hunger occurred in a number of provinces. And in the period before the end of the year, natural calamities robbed us of 300,000 metric tons of rice paddy that were at that time within the reach of various central Vietnamese provinces. Industrial production has constantly been short of supplies and money. The market, prices, and money have continued to be chaotic. The scourges of a budget deficit and inflation have yet to come to a halt. Foreign debts have increased while the welfare of salaried people, especially those in the professional administrative apparatus and in the armed forces, has continued to deteriorate.

In recent months, a number of problems have emerged regarding the degradation of public order and safety, land disputes in various Nam Bo provinces, and an outcry over heavy taxes and irrational tax policies. All of these have had a heavy impact on the public's mentality and its confidence.

It is apparent that many state plan norms have not been attained while the difficulties lying ahead of us are still great and numerous. But is that what the situation is all about? A calmer look at various figures and the development trend shows that despite difficulties encountered in agricultural production, it is estimated that this year the country will reap 19 million metric tons of grain, an increase of 1.5 million metric tons over 1987 when there was a serious crop failure. Some 500,000 metric tons of grain have been transported from the south to the north, the largest amount ever. The gross value of industrial production increased by 7 percent with commodity-based industry up by 8 percent. Many potentials in heavy industry have been attained such as the Tri An power project and in the future, the Song Da power project.

Export value has reached 10 million rubles/dollars [monetary units as received]. In implementing the new law on investment, over 50 foreign investment projects have been licensed with a total capital of some \$300 million.

Though chaotic, the market has been rather energetic. Commodities seem to be more abundant than before. An interesting fact is that many party resolutions and state policies have been entering into life and have initially developed their effect, such as the policies on renovating economic management in agriculture, ensuring the right to autonomy of various state-run economic establishments, developing nongovernmental economic elements, promoting foreign investment, and encouraging people to go abroad under labor cooperation with foreign countries to remit their earnings home.

In fact, there has been a shift by various industrial, trade, supply, and banking establishments to business accounting. Efforts have been made to gradually do away with subsidies through prices, credit loans, and capital investments. Many positive factors, models in new working methods, and examples of good people and good work have emerged. Worthy of note is a recent phenomenon that the monthly price increase rate is no longer as high as it was before, if not somewhat lower. A determination to shift to the system of business accounting and the vitality of this system are something to be reckoned with.

Every one of us must look at the socioeconomic picture for 1988 and provide his own assessment of whether the current situation is fraught with difficulties or whether there have emerged new factors or more than that, new aspects of progress. Do we still face a deadlock or have we already found a way out? More than that, are we on the way out?

A review of 1988 must be an objective one that looks squarely at the truth and examines correctly and thoroughly all those things that have not yet been done and those that have already been done. No matter what we may have in our minds, we must admit that the difficulties and obstacles lying ahead of us are still great and that only with the unified minds and energy of the entire party and people can we overcome these difficulties and obstacles.

Effecting a significant change is not easy. Although what we have done is not a great deal and is truly fundamental, it has brought about confidence and encouraged us to march more steadily on our way out and along our path of advance.

NHAN DAN Outlines Ways To Settle Land Disputes
BK0912160288 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Under the title "Settle Land Disputes in the Countryside in Accordance With Party Policies and the Law of the State," an editorial in today's issue of NHAN DAN says in part:

Settlement of land disputes must be based on party policies and the law of the state as well as on the traditional solidarity among our peasants. Resolutely protecting correct policies, just actions, and good persons subjected to misunderstanding is a principle that must be firmly upheld. We must not let former landowners and rich peasants or their children seize land from peasants, cooperatives, and production collectives. Policies on priority treatment must be applied to revolutionary families in the spirit of repaying their services. It is necessary to unmask and deal with those who deliberately instigate peasants according to the law. Disputes between the peasants themselves must be settled in the spirit of democratic discussion, openness, mutual aid, and promotion of solidarity among fellow villagers.

In the current situation, there are specific cases of land disputes. State organs should promptly issue sub judice documents to concretize the law on land already passed by the National Assembly. These new guidelines, however, cannot cover all the cases. Therefore, provincial and municipal party organizations and administrative bodies should lay down specific regulations for local application based on party policies and the law of the state. It is necessary to ensure that provincial regulations are suited to the specific local situation but not at variance with the unified national law.

Most land disputes should be settled at the grass-roots level. To do so, central sectors and the provincial and district levels must help enhance the prestige of grass-roots organizations and guide the latter in solving problems. We must resolutely deal with errant cadres and party members and at the same time, protect good persons and clear up all understandings. Only when party organizations, administrative bodies, and mass societies at the grass-roots level operate effectively will it be possible to settle land disputes on the spot in a quick and correct manner.

Cadres Return 'Illegally Occupied' Land
*BK1012042688 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Text] TUOI TRE journal reports that over the past 10 days or so, nearly 140 cadres and party members in various districts of Dong Thap Province have returned pieces of land in excess of their authorization.

The pieces of recovered land include 2.5 hectares in Thanh Hung District and 26 hectares in Sa Dec city which were illegally occupied by cadres and party members, including six cadres and party members of Thanh Hung District who have been disciplined. These pieces of land have been included in the common land assets for allocation to those who do not have enough land.

Also during the same period, more than 1,000 of the 3,000 total cases of land disputes have been settled through debate and negotiation among the peasants in a fairly rapid manner.

The Dong Thap provincial party committee echelon has been known to be very resolute in dealing with cadres and party members who have illegally occupied land. According to Comrade Phan Huu Lap, member of the provincial party committee's standing committee and head of the civil proselytizing committee, the provincial party committee echelon has advocated that those cadres and party members who have illegally occupied land or have accepted land contracts exceeding their authorization must criticize themselves in front of peasants and return the excess land to collectives. These cadres and party members must be disciplined according to the extent of their violations.

Army Paper on Ammunition, Weaponry Maintenance

Part 1 of Article

*BK1112152988 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2330 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[First part of article by station correspondent Vu Dinh Vinh: "Maintenance of Ammunition and Weaponry and Related Problems"]

[Summary] This year, it can be said that work related to maintenance of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment in all Army units, from professional organs to basic units, is continuing to develop the results obtained from previous years. In October and November, dozens of teams of technical and professional cadres were successively dispatched to various units to inspect and supervise this important work.

The reality in these units showed that there was progress but there are also things that should be done more satisfactorily and uniformly in this work. "In an exchange of views with the comrade specialists of the weaponry and ammunition sector, we could see clearly on their faces the uneasiness of those directly involved in such a serious and tremendous task—a task that has yielded initial results but is still rife with difficulties that must be smoothed out with effective plans and measures.

"We all know that weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment constitute one of the basic factors of the fighting strength of our Army. All units in the Army currently have in their inventories a large volume of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment of numerous types—from ordinary to modern types—that have been replenished from different sources.

"The maintenance of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment is very complicated work that requires the help of all combatants and cadres of every unit, no matter where it is or what its duty. No soldier has not been supplied with a certain type of weapon together with ammunition and personal kit. No unit does not have an considerable inventory of weapons and ammunition. This is an inestimable and highly essential asset not only of the armed forces but also of the entire nation."

During a visit to units on combat duty or combat readiness in Vi Xuyen District of Ha Tuyen Province, we could see how highly soldiers here treasure their guns and ammunition. In other units—especially artillery, air defense, and tank units—cadres and soldiers also demonstrate a high sense of responsibility toward the weapons, ammunition, and technical equipment that have been turned over to them for management and use.

"However, this is a difficult, serious, silent, and even dangerous job which requires a high degree of responsibility and a certain level of professional knowledge. In addition there are the effects of nature, the environment, and climate—factors that cause more problems in the maintenance and use of weapons, ammunition, and technical equipment in our country."

"For instance, degraded powder can easily ignite or explode; humidity affects the quality of weapons, equipment, and ammunition. Technical maintenance work at present is rife with difficulties and suffers an imbalance in materials and spare parts, from the smallest item such as gun cleaning cloth to essential items such as canvas, ball-bearings, chemical paint, timber of various kinds, and so forth."

Although great efforts have been made to provide practical professional and advanced training to support the maintenance of technical equipment and the exploitation and use of weapons and ammunition at various units, the number of weapons repairmen at these units remains small compared with the number needed.

In 1988, all general requirements have initially been fulfilled as the weaponry sector has assisted commanding cadres in understanding the exploitation and utilization regulations and procedures and organizing the technical maintenance of weaponry and ammunition.

Meanwhile, soldiers have been compelled to firmly understand the technical characteristics of weapons and dexterously use all types of weapons that have been distributed to them, and cadres and personnel of the sector have undergone training to improve their technical and professional skills.

"However, compared with the requirements and duties of the maintenance of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment in light of the present situation at basic units, there still remains a gap. What should we do to ensure safety in the use and maintenance of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment? What should we do to prevent weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment from deteriorating rapidly? What should we do to prevent fires, explosions, and loss of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment? These are questions concerning things that must be done immediately and satisfactorily by all those who attach interest to the fighting strength of our people's armed forces."

Part 2 of Article

BK1212101688 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Second part of article by station correspondent Vu Dinh Vinh: "Maintenance of Ammunition and Weaponry and Related Problems"]

[Summary] "To stabilize the technical maintenance of weaponry and technical equipment for the sake of the fighting strength of every unit, in 1988 work related to storage facilities, both on the front and in the rear area, has satisfactorily been carried out step by step with close attention by responsible organs and commanders at all levels.

"As a first step, to solve problems concerning materials and expense, containers have been made for ammunition and beams have been provided for the reinforcement of depots." Attention has also been paid to improving preventive and protective measures.

"Generally speaking, the number of fire and explosion control facilities—such as fire trucks, water tanks, lightning conductors, and explosion prevention equipment—is still far from meeting the requirements. However, attention has also been paid to overcoming this situation step by step.

"The force specialized in this task, which leads an overwhelmingly difficult life and works under adverse weather conditions, is still small compared with the number permitted."

"At a time when the supply of funds and materials for this work suffers an imbalance, certain units have even used the money appropriated for gasoline and diesel oil expenses for the technical maintenance of weaponry and equipment to cover other expenses in support of daily life activities. Some units, although operating on the frontline, have also spent money beautifying their barracks and conference halls right in midst of a mountainous or remote area while leaving large quantities of weaponry, ammunition, and other important equipment in sites lacking the proper conditions for maintenance."

Because our ammunition includes many types and has come from different sources, it has caused numerous difficulties in terms of management. It can be said that almost all depots we now have cannot satisfy the needs arising from this task. Even those depots in the south have been damaged, making interior and exterior temperatures almost the same.

Most of the ammunition depots at units from divisional level upward are in relatively good conditions. Although the Khanh Khe and B-8 Group of the Chi Lang Military Corps are stationed in the high mountains, they were still able to build good depots for the maintenance of ammunition. The Huong Giang Military Corps has devised a good pattern for work related to storage facilities.

Progress has also been made in this work by the 5th Military Region. However, weaknesses in this respect still prevail among its subordinate units at regimental level or lower. A large quantity of ammunition here is still left at makeshift depots.

We all know that ammunition is closely linked to the life of a soldier as well as to the fulfillment of duties of every unit, especially those on the frontline. Therefore, efforts must be made to ensure its quality and the safety of those who use it.

"Apart from paying serious attention to providing budgets and materials appropriately for the technical maintenance of weaponry and ammunition, responsible cadres should demonstrate their dynamism and creativity to ensure that all sources of expenditures and materials are utilized in a correct and effective manner. Meanwhile, all leading and commanding echelons should perform satisfactorily work related to the education of soldiers so they will know how to love, treasure, and take good care of their weapons and equipment under all circumstances."

"It is imperative to promptly adopt an appropriate system or policy toward cadres and soldiers directly involved in the maintenance of weaponry, ammunition, and technical equipment. This is aimed at making it possible for them to be at ease to engage enthusiastically in the task of preserving one of the country's valuable assets—the basic factor of our Army's fighting strength."

Conclusion of Article

BK1212110488 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Third and last part of article by station correspondent Vu Dinh Vinh: "Maintenance of Ammunition and Weaponry and Related Problems"]

[Summary] The quality and durability of weapons are dependent upon environmental conditions and their maintenance and usage. To fully develop the effectiveness of weapons and equipment each unit must observe a system of regular maintenance in carrying out training activities, maintaining combat readiness, and performing combat duty.

Looking back, commanding and leading echelons throughout the Army have paid attention to the technical maintenance of weapons and equipment. "Minor repair services for weapons and equipment of different types have been provided more satisfactorily and with better quality with each passing year. The plan for this was completed by 95 percent in 1987, and there are many indications that this year's plan will be fulfilled by an even higher percentage. Factories and workshops belonging to various units have now been able to produce a number of simple tools and spare parts to actively support the repair and restoration of weaponry and equipment."

Whether a unit maintains its weapons, equipment, and ammunition satisfactorily or not depends first of all on its commander's understanding of the issue. Reality shows that commanders of technical units often pay more attention to this matter. What all units are seeking to overcome is a shortage of supplies for maintenance, such as tools, spare parts, lubricants, and cleaning rags.

"However, the lack of responsibility is evident in the case of a depot at area "q" where military supplies—chemicals, paint, lubricants, infantry weapons, mortar guns, optical equipment, cloth and leather items, heavy and light machineguns, and so forth—are stored indiscriminately. Although the scarcity of storage space cannot be ruled out, this obviously shows the inadequacy of those responsible in terms of knowledge and awareness as well as the indecisiveness of their commander. Many other examples can also be cited where artillery pieces were left on soccer fields or stored in thatch-roofed and mud-walled houses."

The Weapons and Ammunition Department is an armed branch directly subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense, but at the grass-roots level its personnel answer to the Technical Department and unit commanders. Their voices as staff in charge of technical equipment should carry a certain weight. The principles set by the branch must be strictly observed, and its plans of action must be carried out effectively from top to bottom through specific directives and orders issued by the competent organs.

The responsibility of those in charge of maintaining weapons and ammunition has brought about initial results that fill us with confidence. Nevertheless, the attention of various echelons and sectors are needed so that this work can be carried out even more satisfactorily.

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